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WOMEN IN THE DYNAMICS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: FROM THE POSITION OF VICTIM TO THAT OF AGGRESSOR

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Abstract: The article aims to analyse domestic violence and the transition of women from the status of victim to that of aggressor, capitalizing on a series of sociological perspectives, but also appealing to an interdisciplinary understanding of the phenomenon. In this regard, we started from some conceptual clarifications and theoretical sociological perspectives on the phenomenon of domestic violence. The reversal of roles in the mechanism of domestic violence can be interpreted, in our opinion, from both a macrosocial and microsocial perspective. The phenomenon betrays both an increase in violence at the social level and borderline forms (enhanced by substance use) of reaction to existing domestic violence. In this respect, the case study we propose illustrates this fact. In our case, the aggressor woman is nothing more than a camouflaged hypostasis of long victimization and trauma. Thus, in some cases, domestic violence between spouses expresses an inability to face and manage a family reality by circumscribing itself to behavioral evasionism.

Keywords: domestic violence, role reversal, female aggressor

Résumé : Cet article vise à analyser les violences conjugales et la transition des femmes du statut de victime à celui d'agresseuse, en s'appuyant sur diverses perspectives sociologiques et une approche interdisciplinaire du phénomène. À cet égard, nous avons débuté par plusieurs clarifications conceptuelles et perspectives théoriques sociologiques relatives aux violences conjugales. Le renversement des rôles dans le mécanisme de ces violences peut, selon nous, être interprété d'un point de vue à la fois macrosocial et microsocial. Ce phénomène révèle à la fois une augmentation de la violence au niveau social et des formes limites (potentiellement exacerbées par la consommation de substances) de réaction aux violences conjugales existantes. L'étude de cas que nous proposons illustre ce fait. Dans notre cas, la femme agresseuse n'est rien d'autre qu'une hypostase camouflée d'une longue victimisation et de traumatismes. Ainsi, dans certains cas, les violences conjugales expriment une incapacité à affronter et à gérer la réalité familiale, se limitant à une stratégie d'évitement comportemental.

Mots-clés : violences conjugales, renversement des rôles, femme agresseuse

Rezumat: Articolul își propune să analizeze violența domestică și trecerea femeii de la statutul de victimă la cel de agresor, valorificând o serie de perspective sociologice, dar făcând apel și la o înțelegere interdisciplinară a fenomenului. În acest sens, am plecat de la câteva clarificări conceptuale și perspective teoretice sociologice privind fenomenul

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violenței domestice. Inversarea rolurilor în mecanismul de derulare al violenței domestice poate fi interpretată, în opinia noastră, atât din perspectivă macrosocială, cât și microsocială. Fenomenul trădează deopotrivă o creștere a violenței la nivel social, dar și forme-limită (potențate de consumul de substanțe) de reacție la o violență domestică existentă. În acest sens, studiul de caz pe care îl propunem ilustrează acest fapt. În cazul nostru, femeia agresor nu este altceva decât o ipostază camuflată a unei îndelungi victimizări și a unor traume. Astfel, în unele cazuri, violența domestică între soți exprimă o incapacitate de a înfrunta și de a gestiona o realitate familială, circumscriindu-se unui evazionism comportamental.

Cuvinte-cheie: violență domestică, invesarea rolurilor, femeie agresor

1. Domestic violence in an interdisciplinary context. Introductory notes.

Domestic violence is one of the most persistent and complex contemporary social phenomena, with profound implications at the individual, family and community levels. Although women are frequently perceived as victims, some research shows that they can also exhibit aggressive behaviors in response to repeated abuse, psychological trauma, and social marginalization, amplified by the use of psychoactive substances. However, this topic is too little studied, although current statistics call for an increase in violent behavior among girls, for example.

In addition, my professional experience as a lawyer has shown me that there are numerous cases in which victims and aggressors are caught in a circle of violence and addiction. In many of these situations, drug use and addiction play a significant role, increasing the risk of aggression or weakening the victim's position. Given the complexity of relationships in the domestic universe, the phenomenon of violence acquires specific nuances and can be translated into countless forms of manifestation. For this reason, an interdisciplinary perspective of a sociological, psychological, and legal nature and of social attention is more than necessary.

Thus, we believe that the phenomenon cannot be fully explained by the structural context of gender inequalities or power struggles. It can also benefit from a more nuanced approach in which symbolic interactionism and even constructivist approaches can bring more understanding to the phenomenon. In such a reading grid, the intervention strategies proposed by social assistance could be more nuanced and adapted in crisis management. They would not aim, as we often find in specialized writings, only at restoring the balance in the situation of role inequalities or in the deconstruction of the power mechanisms that force women to adopt violent survival strategies. (Sînzianu, 2006, p. 24). The social worker becomes an agent of change who knows how to manage the complexity of relationships and manifestations in the family universe and who must identify the social „invisibility" of the woman-aggressor, often ignored by traditional protection services (Irimescu, 2017, p. 82). It is an invisibility that exploits a series of stereotypes and social clichés that associate women and femininity with

fragility, tenderness, emotion, and social vulnerability. Although women are frequently perceived as victims, most often having a psychological profile that exploits the experiences of childhood, adolescence, or family and social ones, there are also cases in which they become aggressors. This behavior occurs either in response to repeated abuse, or as a strategy for self-defense or regaining control of their lives (Walker, 1979, p. 55), or as a reaction strategy in tense situations. In some situations, women manifest themselves as agents who maintain and generate, through their behavior, different forms of violent manifestations in the domestic space. This can be a sign of frustration, dissatisfaction, lack of honest communication, inadequacy between reality and personal projections, an inability to cope with the challenges in the domestic space, or it can be the consequence of addictions such as alcohol or drug consumption.

For this reason, the existing legal and legislative framework is required to be carefully applied by those called upon to achieve this. For example, recent research conducted by C. Gîtlan (2023) in the Romanian space on the application of the provisional protection order identifies a series of situations of domestic violence in which alcohol consumption plays an important role. There are, however, situations when the woman instills violence with a precise purpose in obtaining advantages in divorce conditions and as a result of abstaining from a provisional protection order.

In such a complex context of manifestation, we can have a more nuanced perspective on the phenomenon, and we can find new explanations that help us understand domestic violence and its control. The transition of women from the status of victim to that of aggressor is not only a change of theoretical perspective, but expresses a series of transformations generated by the social, political and, why not, ideological contexts in which we operate.

Thus, our goal in this article is to highlight the factors that determine the transformation of the woman from victim to aggressor and to analyze the social and legal implications of this dynamic, integrating sociological, psychological and legal perspectives and the role of multidisciplinary interventions. In this regard, we have taken into account an approach that combines the theoretical part based on bibliographic documentation and the applicative part represented by a case study.

2. Theoretical and conceptual perspectives on domestic violence

Domestic violence represents, as G. Stoican (2020) points out, a category – species of violence understood in a general sense. If violence as a whole is understood as the intentional instrumentation of force or threat against a person, group or community with a direct effect on them from the point of view of physical, mental, moral, economic integrity, etc., domestic violence has a more restrictive area of manifestation, referring only to those who share the domestic sphere.

In this broad context, domestic violence (aet.3 of Law 217/2003) is that kind of violence that manifests itself between those who share the same domestic space.

It goes beyond the boundaries of family violence (aet. 119, Criminal Code) because the domestic space today can be shared by people who are not necessarily part of the family group but who live together.

It is worth noting that between *aggression* and *violence* there are a number of nuances of understanding, the first concept referring to a quality that can be translated into aggressive behavior and the second emphasizing the brutality with which an action against a person, group or community is presented (Gîtlan, 2020, pp. 29-30). However, in the specialized literature these distinctions are difficult to find; most often, there is a certain synonymy between *ageivity* and *violence*, between *domestic violence* and *(intra)family violence*. Several nuances are made regarding the forms of manifestation of violence (physical, psycho-emotional, economic, etc.) or its character (instrumental, emotional and symbolic), as specified by G. Fereol and A. Neculau (2003).

Beyond a number of conceptual clarifications and delimitations, domestic violence presents itself as an *anomic phenomenon* of human interaction within the domestic universe, a phenomenon generated by the complexity of interpersonal relationships, various pathologies and social pressures.

In the sociological analysis of the phenomenon of domestic violence, the *main actors* of the phenomenon, more precisely the victim and the aggressor, enjoy increased attention. If the victim endures the aggression and suffers physical, emotional, or social consequences, it is the victim who initiates violent or abusive behaviors, including when it is a response to repeated abuse (Radoi & Irimescu, 2021). There is, however, also a category of *secondary actors* of the phenomenon that are located either in the domestic universe (children in care, the elderly, or other people) or in the immediate social proximity, such as the family of origin, friends, neighbors, or significant persons. Their role is an indirect one, given by the nature of the relationships and values they share with the main actors. Thus, they can become indirect agents that can trigger or maintain the phenomenon of violence or a valuable resource for controlling and tempering it.

Regarding the respective understandings of domestic violence, the theoretical models emphasize certain directions of analysis. For example, the *theory of the cycle of violence* (Walker, 1979, p. 55): describes violence according to a pattern, often repetitive, which develops in a loop according to a pattern such as: tension, explosion, and reconciliation. This theory involves a longitudinal model of analysis and sequencing of cohabitation in a domestic space marked by violence. Riding patterns are identified in which periods of calm and reconciliation alternate with periods of tension and violence. It is worth mentioning that this cyclicality is often enhanced by alcohol consumption, economic factors or other stressors.

The theory of social learning enunciated by A. Bandura (1977) accepts the role of observation and repeated experience in the learning process of violence. Thus, for example, a violent family environment or frequenting a violent environment represents a fertile ground for grabbing attention, (in)voluntary memorization, and reproduction of violent behaviour. In addition, such an environment can be an important resource for motivating and reproducing

behaviours learned in approximately similar situations. This theoretical perspective shifts attention to the environment of growth and formation of the individual. In contemporary society, training agencies are multiplying and the family is not the only body responsible for the education and training of children. Along with this, school, groups of friends, and the media in all its forms of manifestation all play an important role in the formation of values, attitudes, and behaviors. For example, the abundance of violent scenes in the virtual environment can generate aggressive behaviors among young people and children in real life. The news shows that girls are turning into fearless Amazons and boys into ruthless heroes. Upon careful observation, we note that the advertising industry, for example, also has aggressive behavior, expressed in the most seductive ways. All this can be taken over, processed in an involuntary manner and expressed in various compositional versions, in concrete life situations.

The conflictualist model, assimilated to the various feminist currents, capitalizes on the mechanism of power and control against the background of social inequalities (sex, gender and role inequalities). In this reading grid, domestic violence is a form of manifestation of power disputes that are motivated by a series of inequalities. The impact of social structure and gender norms on victims' behavior is also highlighted (Sînzianu, 2006, p. 38).

The approach proposed by *symbolic interactionism* initiated by G.H. Mead emphasizes the meanings we attach to our actions and behaviors in the domestic universe. These meanings and the interpretations we attach derive from the process of social interaction. In this equation, a few elements play an important role: how you define the situation in your domestic universe (problematic, difficult, happy, contrarian, disrespectful, quiet, etc.), how you define your own role and that of those with whom you share the domestic universe, and how you represent your *mirrored self* (how you imagine others see you). Symbolic interactionism therefore hints at the way we signify and interpret a situation and the way in which these translate into actions and behaviors that ultimately end up strengthening our entire symbolic system. For example, if a person shows suspicion about their partner's behavior, suspicions based on the fact that they are late at home, they end up behaving *as if* they were betrayed. The fact can generate unexpected behaviors on the part of the partner, who stays at work overtime, which could reinforce the initial beliefs. This suite of mutual meanings and interpretations can generate relationship cooling, real betrayals as forms of self-fulfilling prophecy, or violent behavior. Taken over by E. Goffman, this framework for understanding social phenomena comes to capitalize on the importance of labels and the meanings we attach to them. For example, when you call someone „a loser" and constantly repeat this, the person ends up losing self-confidence and behaving like a loser. Of course, labels can work in a negative and positive way, and they can also be used as a resource to improve the relationship.

Looking at reality as a *social construction*, the constructivist model revalue the entire family and domestic environment. It is the fruit of a common construction, which is based on interaction, cultural codes and language. This

theoretical approach capitalizes on the cultural coordinates and language in the domestic scaffolding. Thus, as long as coexistence in the domestic space is based on common values and language translates a clear and unitary perspective on its functioning, things are very good. However, when we talk about cultural gaps, different languages, different values and aspirations, the chances that that domestic universe will be dysfunctional are quite high. Under these conditions, aggressive and violent behaviors do nothing but build an anomic, deviant reality.

All these sociological perspectives reveal certain facets of domestic violence, but altogether, they underline the complexity of the phenomenon. It is given by the very complexity of human interactions and living in common. Hence the different perspectives of intervention, control and management of domestic violence.

3. The woman – from victim to aggressor

In classic research, but also in more recent research, women generally have *the status of victims*. This is justified by the fact that female victims are the majority in cases of domestic violence. We pay attention to the figures from various statistics existing in the Romanian space. The most common explanations are related to cultural patterns, alcohol consumption, role inequalities and power disputes. It is worth mentioning that the woman's victim status is ascertained after she suffered a series of physical violence from the man. Research often emphasizes that assuming the status of victim and the fact that physical violence is the ultimate form of manifestation of violence in the domestic universe, after other types of violence: mental, emotional, economic or verbal.

What has gone into less depth, however, is the role that the two protagonists play in the development *of the spiral of violence*. If the aggressor adopts an active, visible form of manifestation, we do not really know what the role of the victim was. Is it a question of passive assumption of this status or of a deliberate ignorance? Hard to say. However, there is a chance that the victim has an active role by assuming rigid behaviors and verbal violence. In other words, it is difficult to conceive of the phenomenon of domestic violence as a one-sided formula of behavior. The theories stated above themselves demonstrate this fact.

Regardless of the role (active or passive) of the victim woman, the violent form of expression of the man is inscribed, at least from an anthropological and historical perspective, in the logic of raw manifestation of masculinity, emptied of cultural and educational data. In this regard, R. Muchembled (1988) points out that in medieval times, the expression of male violence in raw, direct form was a forgotten fact in rural areas. However, in contemporary society, governed by certain rules and laws and beset by certain cultural standards, self-control is demanded, and violence is demanded to be tamed. In this sense, Norbert Elias (2003) argued that the control or self-control of violence is a natural consequence of the process of civilization. He was interested in his studies of „how different social categories reacted to the process of civilization. What interested Elias primarily

and what he successfully explored were the few processes that developed somehow in parallel, and which in turn played a fundamental role in transforming individual and collective morals and behaviors" (Nicoară, 2006, p. 10). Undoubtedly, cultural and civilizational data contribute to the understanding of how ageivity works; between these variables, there are different forms of conditioning. The gaps between them can generate aggressive behaviors through an inadequacy between mentalities and the civilizational standards that we should assume (Gavriluță, 2008).

Today, *the civilization of violence* translates into written and unwritten norms of social coexistence and in the domestic space.

If in the classic version the woman has the status of victim, in contemporaneity there is also an increase in cases in which he has *the status of aggressor*. The macrosociological explanations can be different:

- An increase in the media coverage of violence and aggression in society;
- A promotion and a defective treatment of models inspired by different mythologies or feminist approaches in which the image of the hero-woman, the warrior woman, the vigilante woman, the fearless woman appears, etc.;
- A radical form of expression in borderline cases;
- A perverse effect of the countless information and education campaigns on the status of women as victims in cases of domestic violence. In this case, female violence is seen as a form of revenge against the man.

Regardless of the visible or invisible causes that we might identify, in this case it is a *process of reversal of roles*. Women become abusers especially when they have a history of abuse, psychological trauma, and social isolation. It is worth mentioning that, in turn, the aggressive reaction can be defensive, reactive, or instrumental, but it is often misinterpreted by society and institutions (Irimescu, 2017, p. 82). In general, in public opinion, the image of the woman-aggressor is deeply marked by a series of stereotypes regarding femininity. Thus, female aggression comes in contradiction with tenderness, sensitivity, and maternal instinct. However, this fact generates social stigma and hinders the process of social rehabilitation (Sînzianu, 2006, p. 62). But what determines a woman to change her role? The literature retains several factors such as:

- *Psychological factors* accounted for in stress, trauma, post-traumatic disorders, repressed anger (Herman, 1992, p. 110).
- *Social factors* expressed through marginalization, lack of support network, gender stereotypes, lack of community resources, and the failure of informal networks (family, neighbors) turn vulnerability into hostility. In this case, the aggressor woman is in fact a „victim of the protection system" (Rădoi & Irimescu, 2021, p. 89).
- *Economic factors* manifested as financial dependence, lack of alternative resources, and inability to cope with daily challenges from an economic point of view.

- *Addictions* in the form of drug and alcohol consumption that amplify impulsivity, decrease inhibitions, and favor violent reactions.

Sociologically speaking, this reversal of roles can also be seen as a „reaction of adaptation to an anomic environment" (Sînzianu, 2006, p. 45), where the social norms of protection fail, forcing the individual to create his own control mechanisms, even through violence.

Concretely, the phenomenon can translate into various behaviors that can range from domination and control behaviors to verbal, physical, and psychological aggressions.

4. Case Study

The case study has an illustrative role in terms of role reversal, the woman becoming violent in the domestic space. In this case study, we had as support a civil case that has as its object: a request for the issuance of a judicial protection order issued for a maximum period of 6 months, pending before Court I. and for which all the opinions for consultation were obtained. In addition to the study of the case itself, a participatory observation was made in the courtroom at the time of the trial of the case.

4.1. Presentation of the case:

Husband (applicant), I.. 42 years old, requests a protection order in court on the grounds that his wife M. (defendant), 38 years old, is violent in the domestic environment and requests the temporary eviction of the defendant from the common home, the reinstatement of the applicant, respectively of the assaulted husband, the obligation to keep a minimum distance from the victim, residence and place of work. Also, the request for the issuance of the protection order also requested the prohibition of any contact, including by telephone, by correspondence or in any other way, with the victim and the custody of the two minor children.

Social Inquiry:

- The two spouses live in the urban area, together with their children, in a 2-room apartment.
- Education: wife - graduate of 12 grades; the husband – a graduate of 10 grades.
- Religion: Orthodox Christians; both spouses declare themselves practicing
- Profession:
    - His wife is a maid and takes care of *some buildings*;
    - The husband is a plumber *for water networks.*
- Monthly income: a total of 9146 lei, of which:
    - Wife: 2500 lei;
    - Husband: 6000 lei.
    - Child allowances: 323/child x 2 = 646 lei.

- Monthly expenses: food and housekeeping = 2800 lei; utilities (water, gas, electricity, internet, mobile phone: 4 pcs . = 800 lei; children (classes, school supplies, clothes, small activities) = 1000 lei; health and hygiene: 400 lei; public transport: 400 lei. Total: 56500 lei.
- Relationship with the families of origin: it should be noted that there is a history of domestic violence in the husband's family, with major alcohol addictions, and the wife comes from a large and austere family.
- The relationship with the neighbours: it is generally good, but in the moments when the spouses consume alcohol, the relationship with the neighbours becomes conflictive.
- Relationships with friends, the close circle of the spouses: these are quite small, and the circle of close friends is very small and consists of co-workers, but also of a few people who have had problems with the criminal law.
- The onset of domestic violence: the violence initially occurred as a result of the husband's excessive alcohol consumption. They were accompanied by frequent scandals caused by him. With the appearance of the wife's drug addiction, domestic violence was also triggered on both sides. The immediate consequences were the endangerment of the growth and education of the two minor children (one 8 years old and one 10 years old), the appearance of anxiety in the children and verbal and physical aggression manifested by both spouses. Scandals caused by spouses have a frequency of 1-2 times a week. After the husband definitively stopped consuming alcohol, the verbal and physical aggressions were manifested only by the wife following the consumption of prohibited substances in her circle of close friends.
- The onset of the wife's alcohol and drug consumption: the consumption began during the marriage on the sidelines of the entourage at work, but also of the circle of friends „quarrelled with the law". Initially, Maria began using recreational drugs and stimulants, especially cannabis and amphetamines, about 1–2 doses per day, with intensifications during times of marital conflict. Consumption costs: 20–30 lei per day, the equivalent of 140–210 lei/week and 600–900 lei/month. Gradually, drug use is no longer recreational, but has become a way of adapting to marital stress. Her motivation for drug and alcohol use refers to her husband's alcohol consumption.
- Factors that influenced drug and alcohol use: the wife's interference with a group of friends who used prohibited substances for their own and recreational purposes. The negative entourage of the husband caused an exaggerated alcohol consumption that led to conflicts in the family. Also, the lack of real support in the families of origin. A significant role of the group in destabilizing the family of the two spouses and sometimes in fueling conflictive states is noted.

- Manifestations against the background of alcohol and drug consumption: the daily consumption of marijuana, amphetamines, and excessive alcohol generated paranoid episodes for both spouses and uncontrolled states of anger, culminating in aggressive domestic violence.
- Consequences of addiction: the installation of a climate of total distrust, where every gesture of the spouses is interpreted as a threat or act of verbal or physical aggression.
- Reversal of roles and the onset of violence: the phenomenon occurred when the husband gave up alcohol consumption and acts of domestic violence. The use of marijuana and amphetamines gave her a false state of power and invulnerability. Under the influence of drugs, she no longer accepts her husband's abuse in any way and fights back, becoming, in time, from victim to aggressor. In this family, the effect of couple addiction occurs with the development of successive episodes of violence, generating a toxic domestic environment.
- Children's reaction to paternal and maternal violence: the appearance of states of confusion and anxiety, the phenomenon of parentification, and emotional withdrawal (dissociation) appear. The minors could not stand the flow of words, the reproaches, or the agitation created by their parents and „closed" themselves in the world of video games, isolated themselves in the room, becoming apathetic.
- Periods of calm and tranquillity: there were sporadic periods of calm and tranquillity, but these were actually installed with the issuance of the protection order against the mother who became the aggressor of the victim. These periods were interpreted as a fragile and temporary truce.

Legal elements:

- The applicant, in support of the request for the issuance of a protection order, the applicant invoked the acts of violence exerted by his wife on him and the destruction of some movable property (television, vacuum cleaner, paintings with sentimental value) under the common regime of the spouses in the building. The evidence administered in the case was represented by the documentary evidence, but also by the testimonial evidence, with a witness, in the person of the neighbour of the B. I. staircase, who gave a statement before the court regarding the factual situation, describing the conflictive states between the spouses, especially the aggressions on the part of the defendant (wife) aggressor.
- The defendant, through a lawyer of her choice, filed a response, by which she showed that the main reason that determined her to consume prohibited substances was the aggressive behaviour of the husband over the years, aspects that determined the reversal of the roles regarding the domestic violence exercised by the spouses during the marriage. The defendant promised before the court that she would no longer consume drugs, but that it was necessary to admit her to a specialized unit, in order

to detoxify and stabilize her in moments of crisis or withdrawal; in the present case, the Socola Iasi Psychiatric Institute was recommended.

- The key elements in the case are: the request for the judicial protection order, prohibitions, obligations, aggressions, alcohol and drug consumption.
- Legislation: Law no. 217/2003.
- The sentence pronounced on 05.08.2025 by the Court I. in the civil case no. XXX/245/2025 ordered the application of a protection order for the spouse and children.

Personal observations from the courtroom:

During the hearing, in the presence of the lawyers of both parties and the representative of the Public Prosecutor's Office, through the hearing prosecutor, the parties had a cooperative attitude with the court. The defendant (the wife) admitted that the violence that triggered the conflictive states and the instability of the family. She also admitted that as a result of drug use, she had repeatedly engaged in verbal and physical aggression against the plaintiff's husband. He showed through his defence lawyer that he is a responsible father and that for 2 years he has given up alcohol consumption, focusing mainly on raising and educating minors and managing the joint household.

The way in which they cooperated with the court and the reactions of the two parties indicate the desire of both spouses to remedy the situation and the need for an interdisciplinary intervention (treatment, counselling, specialized support), beyond the protection order obtained.

This seems to have been perceived by the two spouses as a momentary solution, which aims to calm the situation.

4.2. Interpretation of the case

The case presented above involves a structured interpretation on several levels, thus capitalizing on the theoretical perspectives exposed in this article.

Undoubtedly, the consumption of alcohol and drugs by the two partners is a factor that generates violence. We note that this consumption is the result of social learning. In the case of the man, it is a family with a history of alcohol consumption and violence. Learning also takes place in the groups that the spouses attend (e.g., the wife's recreational drug use). The conflictual model marks a series of problems generated by a partial economic dependence of the wife on the husband and, in this context, an affirmation of male power through alcohol consumption and violent behaviour. In the first phase, domestic violence in which the husband is violent expresses a classic version of the role conflict in which the wife assumes the status of victim, being deprived of power and resources.

If for the husband alcohol consumption and violent behaviour represented a form of assertion of power, control, and authority, for the wife drug use seems to be an escape strategy and at the same time a coping mechanism in an aggressive domestic environment. In this context, amphetamines act as a catalyst that

transforms structural frustration (lack of money, isolation) into acts of active deviance. Subsequently, drug use also becomes a medical problem.

The theory of the cycle of violence has a peculiarity in this case: it begins with male violence, continues with alternative violence on the part of the two spouses, and ends up manifesting only female violence. These stages are marked by the consumption of alcohol and substances by the two spouses. This fact shows us that domestic violence, in this case, is the product of a mutual construction, against the background of addictions. Thus, it does not matter ***what*** is consumed; it matters that the two spouses need a substance in order not to face reality. The fact that Maria started eating exactly when her husband stopped shows that they don't know how to interact as two healthy adults. The interaction between the two spouses, mediated by all kinds of substances, distorts reality and perceptions, and alters behaviour and language. The social inabilities to bear fruit in reality, the inabilities of open communication, the lack of support factors, and real support have fully contributed to the perpetuation of violence and the reversal of roles.

On the other hand, we cannot fail to notice some aspects that could have been taken into account by the court. We are paying attention here to the role of a bio sociopsychological evaluation report. He can demonstrate how „battered woman syndrome" and substance use diminish discernment, turning violence into a form of self-defence (Irimescu, 2017, p. 158; Rădoi & Irimescu, 2021, p. 122).

Moreover, Mary's history of victimization should not be ignored. Violence is essentially a product of the abusive social environment in which he lived. Thus, the rigid application of legal norms without a social assessment of the context risks transforming the justice system into an instrument of „secondary victimization" (Sînzianu, 2006, p. 84).

Conclusions

Domestic violence is a complex phenomenon, with the most unexpected forms of manifestation. The case study presented above is an example of this. The phenomenon of the aggressor woman is a real and multidimensional one, in which psychosocial factors, history of abuse, and addiction interconnect, influencing violent behaviour.

The woman becomes an aggressor when she fails to find solutions and her aggression perpetuates traumas and vulnerabilities. Substance use and addiction confer the false illusion of revenge or power. In the game, it is a camouflage of an initial frustration or victimization. In fact, family problems remain the same, and violence is perpetuated. Domestic violence in this case is a form of manifestation specific to people who do not have the capacity to take advantage of reality normally. In this regard, institutional support is absolutely necessary for the restoration of normality in the domestic space. Thus, integrated, multidisciplinary and preventive policies are essential to reduce the risk of violence and to support vulnerable women, combining social, psychological and legal aspects.

From the point of view of *prevention*, information, education and awareness campaigns could lead to an increase in the capacity for self-control, social interaction and management of critical situations in the social environment and in the domestic space.

From the point of view of intervention, we could identify:

- *Early identification of women at risk* through integrated social and medical services.
- *Psychological and social counselling* for women who exhibit aggressive behaviours or drug use and *support for vulnerable families,* to prevent the occurrence of violent behaviours and drug use.
- *Access to addiction treatment* and psycho-social rehabilitation programs.
- *Rehabilitation and social integration programs* aimed at the reintegration of women into the community and the development of non-violent communication skills, prevention of recidivism through monitoring, continuous support and education for the prevention of violence
- *Creation of specialized centres* for women aggressors where they can benefit from specific therapies.
- *Legal and legislative support* to include extenuating circumstances in the case of female abusers under the influence of drugs, assessing psychosocial factors and history of abuse.
- *The need to create procedures* that allow justice to differentiate between premeditated aggression and impulsive behaviours determined by trauma or dependence.
- *Development of multidisciplinary rapid intervention programmes*: collaboration between police, social services and mental health institutions.
- *Short and long-term* monitoring and evaluation.

All this could reduce the risks of domestic violence between spouses and contribute to better management of the phenomenon. It is hard to imagine that domestic violence could be eradicated, but we have enough reason to believe that it can and should be „tamed" by professional means.

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