

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF AN ONLINE-BASED DECISION AND SAFETY PLANNING APPLICATION FOR BRAZILIAN WOMEN LIVING WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

*VERA DA SILVA, SANDRA PRADO, TEREZINHA RAMOS,
RAÍZA DA ROCHA, MARCOS SIGNORELLI*

**Federal University of Parana (UFPR)
House of the Brazilian Woman of Curitiba (CMBC)**



BACKGROUND: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN BRAZIL

- IPV - WHO multicentre study : Sao Paulo and Pernambuco – women reported at least once in their life psychological (**42%** and **49%**), physical (**27%** and **34%**) and sexual (**10%** and **14%**) violence (Garcia-Moreno *et al*, 2006; Schraiber *et al*, 2007).
- 5th highest rate of femicides in the world: 4.8/100,000 women (Waizelfisz, 2015)
- Highest rate of LGBT homicides (Brazilian Secretary of Human Rights, 2014)
- Public Policies: ‘Maria da Penha Law’ (2006)



LEARNING FROM INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

- Women's Empowerment (Dutton, 1992)
- Online-based decision and safety planning aid



idecide.org.au

(Tarzia et al, 2015;
Hegarty et al, 2015;
2019)



isafe.aut.ac.nz

(Koziol-McLain et al,
2018)



myplanapp.org

IRIS (Glass et al, 2010;
Eden et al, 2016)



icanplan4safety.ca

(Ford-Gilboe et al,
2017)

AIMS

- To develop a feasibility study of an online online-based decision and safety planning aid for Brazilian women living with domestic violence
 - To help Brazilian women recognize abuse and how they can keep themselves safe in recurrent situations of violence
 - To discuss and develop with women and professionals a tailored version for the Brazilian context
 - Final aims: reducing conflict and supporting the decision making process regarding an abusive relationship

METHODOLOGY

- 1) In-depth study of similar platforms to design a research protocol
- 2) Principles of participatory-action research (Liamputtong, 2013) based on qualitative approach (Minayo, 2006)
- 3) Place of study: 'House of the Brazilian Woman of Curitiba' (CMBC)



Botanic Garden of Curitiba



CASA DA MULHER BRASILEIRA

HOUSE OF THE BRAZILIAN WOMAN OF CURITIBA



- The House integrates the intersectoral network in just one place (working 24/7):
- Psycho-social support
- Health support
- Specialized police station
- 'Maria da Penha Patrol'
- Court
- Public Prosecutor's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Temporary shelter
- Toy library
- Financial autonomy workshops



METHODOLOGY

- 1) In-depth study of similar platforms to design a research protocol
- 2) Principles of participatory-action research (Liamputtong, 2013) based on qualitative approach (Minayo, 2006)
- 3) Place of study: 'House of the Brazilian Woman of Curitiba' (CMBC)
- 4) Period: from Jan/2018 to present
- 5) In-depth semi-structured interviews with professionals and survivors (n = 28)
- 6) Data were recorded, transcribed, coded and tabulated
- 7) Content Analysis (Bardin, 1995)
- 8) Approved in 2 Ethics Committees: Federal University of Parana and City of Curitiba (following national and international guidelines)

TRANSLATION AND CULTURAL ADAPTATION SUBSTUDY

COMPOSITE ABUSE SCALE (CAS) – BRAZILIAN PORTUGUESE

7. We would like to know if you experienced any of the actions listed below and **how often** it happened during the past **twelve months**. If you were **not with a partner** in the past twelve months, could you please answer for the last partner that you had. *Please tick the appropriate box, which matches the frequency, over a twelve month period, that it happened to you.*

(Please tick one box on each line)

| Actions | How often it happened | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Never | Only Once | Several Times | Once/ Month | Once/ Week | Daily |
| <i>My Partner:</i> | | | | | | |
| Told me that I wasn't good enough | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Kept me from medical care | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Followed me | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Tried to turn my family, friends or children against me | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Locked me in the bedroom | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Slapped me | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Raped me | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Told me that I was ugly | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Tried to keep me from seeing or talking to my family | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |
| Threw me | <input type="checkbox"/> ₀ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₁ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₂ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₃ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₄ | <input type="checkbox"/> ₅ |

The screenshot shows a web-based application titled "SAFETY Decision Aid". The interface includes a navigation menu with options: Start, Background, Safety Check, Your Decision, Preferences, Summary, Danger Assessment, Results, Action Plan, and Your Decision Now. The main content area displays the following information:

Here is your level of danger.

Your Score: 14

Severe Danger (14 to 17)

You are in severe danger and it is an important time to talk with people you trust. This may be a friend, family member, domestic violence advocate, lawyer and/or the police. You can ask these people for information and help with increasing your safety.

Below this, there are four colored boxes representing danger levels:

- Some Danger (less than 8) - Yellow box
- Increased Danger (8 to 13) - Orange box
- Severe Danger (14 to 18) - Red box
- Extreme Danger (greater than 18) - Dark red box

At the bottom of the interface, there are three buttons: "Back", "Instructions", and "Next". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system clock as 8:01 AM.

RESULTS – THE MAJORITY CONSIDERED FEASIBLE

- 1) the potential to help women recognize themselves as living in an abusive relationship
- 2) the agility, safety and anonymity, especially for women who do not wish to be exposed and fail to look for specialized services in person
- 3) supporting women as *'a way of disclosing and making the decision to denounce the aggressor,'*(sic) helping them take the first step towards formal denunciations
- 4) a didactic tool, guiding the *'step by step for women to organize and be encouraged to make the denunciation, informing the appropriate places'* (sic)
- 5) fostering the dissemination of information about violence and the possibility of connecting with the intersectoral care services, facilitating women's life
- 6) supporting also professionals in the area

RESULTS – 3 PARTICIPANS CONSIDERED NOT FEASIBLE

- 1) safety, since it could be a risk if the woman is caught by the aggressor using it
- 2) the need for adequate training of those who will receive the denunciation, if the app is interconnected to face-to-face services from the network
- 3) not being in front of another person could make taking actions difficult
- 4) many women do not have access to the internet



LACK OF CLARITY (MISTAKE WITH THE PANIC BUTTON):

“Yes, but it would have to work, I haven't seen or heard about an app that prevents violence. If the victim is on a street and sees her attacker approaching, she will trigger the app, when help arrives she has already been killed or raped by her attacker.” (Participant, survivor user of the CMBC)

RESULTS – SUGGESTIONS:

- 1) the application should be discreet, as simple as possible and easily accessible, with step-by-step instructions and self-explanatory approaches
- 2) a click to connect the application with the protection network and phones of relatives for emergency support
- 3) designing security and discretion with regard to the aggressor, since many monitor the cell phones of women (I-BELIEVE or EU-DECIDO instead of I-LOVE)

'Make the application available in schools, libraries, hospitals, squares, in buses, public places, for low-income women, they also have the right to use it.' (Participant, professional of the CMBC)

'It must have a list of existing services according to her place, with phone number and address. It should also include the types of violence, so she can perceive herself in a situation of violation of rights.' (Participant, professional of the CMBC)

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Feasible, but needs to be tailored for the Brazilian context
- Connecting to face-to-face services
- Considering concerns, challenges and suggestions
- Pilot version to be developed in Curitiba

WHAT'S NEXT? Submitted to the World Bank SVRI 2020 Grant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you! Obrigado!

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela



Federal University of Parana – Curitiba, Brazil

signorelli.marcos@gmail.com

veraluciaconsultoria@yahoo.com.br

smpraddo@gmail.com