

ABSTRACT

THE EXPECTATIONS OF PROTECTION OF SURVIVORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER ABUSE AND THEIR INTERVENORS

Few studies have addressed the experience of rural immigrant survivors of intimate partner abuse. Understanding this experience is important for the human professions. Domestic violence is an ever-increasing problem, which has implications in all areas of human functioning and at the institutional level. This qualitative exploratory inquiry studied the experiences of seven survivors of intimate partner abuse, as well as the experience of three victims' advocates charged with providing assistance to survivors of domestic violence. Seven themes emerged from this study: (1) Safety, (2) Understanding of situation, (3) Empathy, (4) Education, (5) Culturally appropriate services, (6) Familism, and (7) Localized services. There was an agreement between the survivors' and the victims' advocates' accounts on how these general themes tend to impact the everyday experience of survivors of intimate partner abuse who live in the rural communities of Fresno County, CA.

Cruz Elena Pinzon
May 2006