Insecure domestic workers during COVID 19 confinement in Portugal a cultural studies perspective

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FIGURE 1
FIGURE 2
Credits: www.freepik.com

This quantitative study aims to produce, analyze, systematize and disseminate statistical data on the impact of COVID-19 on insecure domestic workers in Portugal - whose position was already precarious. The observations include a gender perspective and take into account possible aggravation caused by intersections with race, class, age, the migrant situation and territory. It is intended to contribute to the production of data that support the design and application of public policies to face this crisis and its consequences.

The population estimation was based on data on domestic workers from CENSO (INE, 2011) and on the estimation by Eurostat (2018) of the index of precarious workers in Portugal. The total estimated population is 281,482 subjects. The sample from 384 individuals was calculated to reflect this population and the heterogeneous distribution of subjects. We have a confidence level of 95% and margin of error of 5%. To ensure regional representation, quotas were calculated for each region of Portugal (NUTS II), including the mainland and autonomous regions, based on population distribution (INE, 2011). All quotas have been reached. The surveys, answered between March and June 2021, contained 22 questions, of which 13 were direct and 9 were formulated on a Likert scale. The data collected through the surveys were processed using the SPSS program.

The descriptive and preliminary analysis points to the social fragility of the subjects in the sample with regard to education, work and salary security, as well as exposure to contagion by covid-19. Due to the greater incidence of female subjects in the sample, it is to be considered that the gender asymmetry found in Portuguese society may exacerbate this fragility, as well as the situation of emigration and racialization. These first indicators can be deepened by cross-referencing quantitative data, as well as by a subsequent qualitative study.