

# Adequate Housing, The Case of Fraud Against Indigenous Women in Xilitla San Luis Potosi

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## 1. Background

My research focuses on the fraud case against a group of indigenous women in Xilitla, San Luis Potosi. The fraud was committed by member of an organization called TZEDAKAH, in alleged collusion with public servants. The organization pretended to represent UN Women Argentina and CONAVI (National Housing Council), offering a group of indigenous women access to the benefit of an adequate housing project, by paying a 13,000 Mexican pesos (645 USD approximately).

I investigate the consequences of this fraud beyond the explicit financial cost, focusing on the effects on human rights, trust, physical and mental health, and access to justice.

## 2. Research question

- How are the victims of this fraud affected?
- Beyond the explicit financial cost, what other effects can be identified?

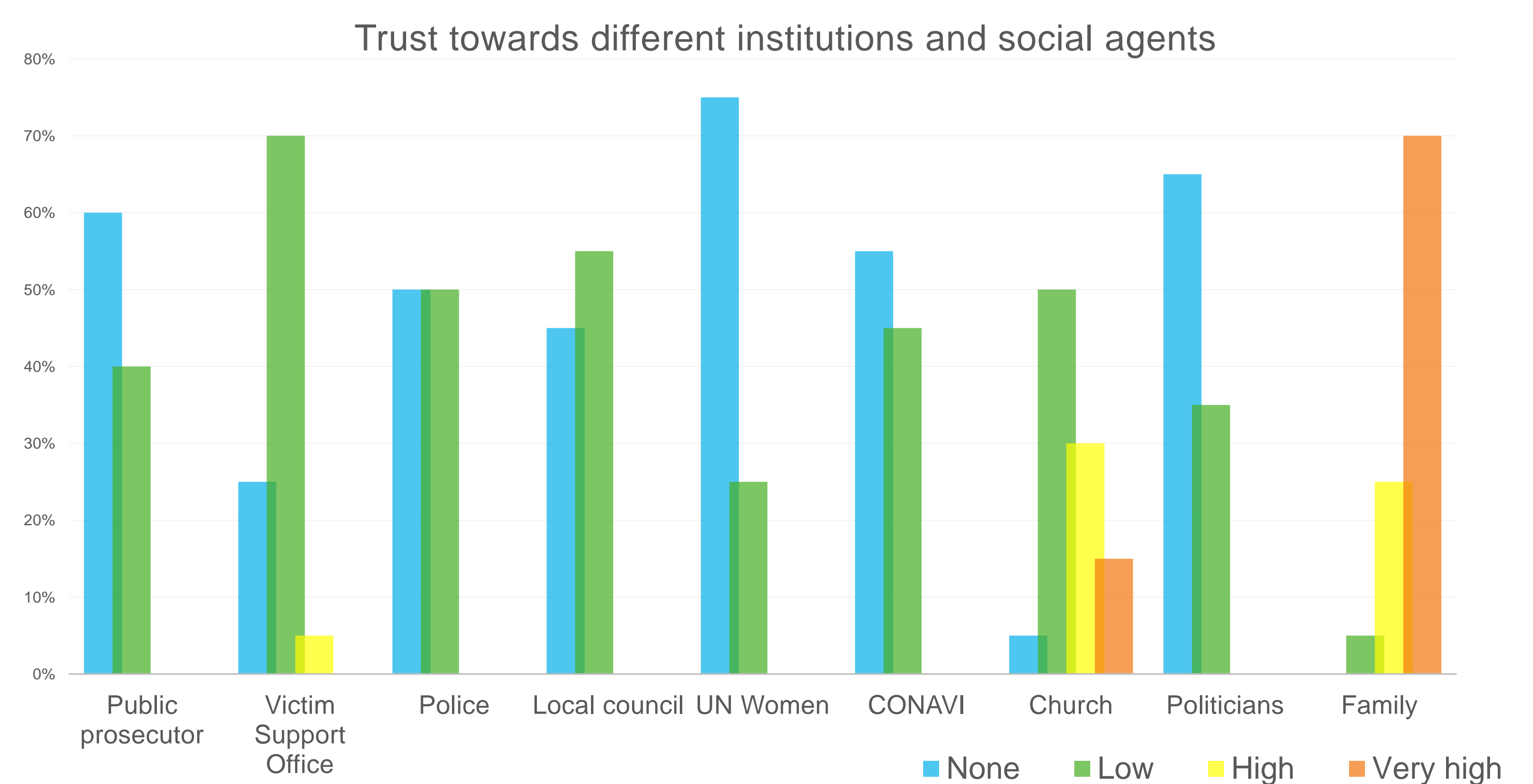
## 4. Methodology

This research follows a case study approach. Participatory action research methodology is used. 20 women victims of this fraud where recruited through personal contact available to the researcher, who was also a victim herself. Data collection was conducted using semi-structured interviews, field notes, and focus groups. Transcripts where coded and emerging themes were identified.

## 3. Interview / Sample

Sample	Guiding interview questions	Major themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N=20</li> <li>• Indigenous women</li> <li>• 45% single mothers</li> <li>• 80% elementary education</li> <li>• 75% unemployed</li> <li>• 85% not home owners</li> </ul>	<p>How much do you trust authorities and social agents?</p> <p>Was the payment financed using loans?</p> <p>Has your health deteriorated as consequence of the fraud?</p> <p>What is your opinion regarding corruption among authorities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mistrust</li> <li>• Negative effect on financial stability</li> <li>• Negative effect on Mental health</li> <li>• Poor Physical health</li> <li>• Corruption among public authorities</li> </ul>

## 5. Results



Theme	Trend
Institutional Trust	None/Low
Financial stability	Negative
Mental health	Negative
Physical health	Negative
Corruption authorities	High

## 6. Conclusion

Preliminary results suggest participants experience effect that go beyond the financial cost of the fraud. Mistrust towards institutions associated to reports that public authorities validated the project. Negative effects on financial stability, mental and physical health. Most participants made reference to suspicion of corruption among public authorities. This findings indicate potential breach of human rights, property rights, and human dignity

## 7. Next steps

Increase sample to include comparison group  
Further research related to violation of human rights and access to justice

## 8. References

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