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Canadian Domestic Homicide
Prevention Initiative

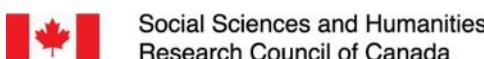


A Discussion on Premigration Trauma and Postmigration Stress as Possible Factors for IPV in Immigrant/Refugee Populations

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Our Research Questions

- Using CDHPIVP data on service providers worked with Immigrants and Refugees to answer:
- *Are service providers aware of the impacts of pre-migration trauma on immigrant women's experiences of domestic violence?*
- *Do service providers believe that there exist notions of shame and honour among the immigrant families that are affecting their lives in Canada?*
- *Is there evidence that shame and honour are being triggered (premigration trauma) among immigrant families due to the structural barriers they are facing in Canada (postmigration stress)?*

Theoretical Framework

- Intersectionality
- Intersecting structures of ethnicity, class and gender create complex inequalities that heighten community-level risk factors for immigrants and refugee families who experience IPV in Canada.

Thematic Analysis

- NVIVO
- Coding Themes: Looking for evidence that service providers are aware of community-level risk factors associated with the cultural and religious identities and practices of immigrant and refugees.
- 251 interviews.

Premigration Trauma

- Fear of the police.
- Family violence.
- Collective violence such as wars.
- PTSD
- Mistrust of the system (government authorities, Judicial system, police, etc.)

“Trauma and Culture are big ones.”

*“So, like off the top of my head, a couple challenges would be, sort of debunking, or not debunking **but working around the cultural beliefs** that some of the immigrants and refugees have that are contradictory to our legal processes here. So, having to work around individuals who don’t recognize that they’re committing an offense because it’s not illegal elsewhere- where they come from.”*

*“the trauma of being in refugee camps and fleeing war-torn countries and then **on top of that they’ve had some experience of trauma bonding with the perpetrator**, with the abuser, and now they are here and it’s harder for them to leave or whatnot.”*

Shame and Honour

*“Economy, cultural, religious... They’re sort of trapped by **the lack of support systems**, because they speak the language, they can’t get supports, their family might be against it. I just had a woman this morning, who was talking to me about leaving him was the best thing she ever did, **even though she didn’t get a lot of support and she has a lot of shame and guilt**, she doesn’t have a lot of money, but she managed it, it was a struggle, but she was very happy that she did it even though she didn’t have a lot to offer her children, **but she had peace of mind.**”*

Shame and Honour (contd.)

“Religion sometimes used in a very negative way. Culture. They are afraid they will be judged or cast away from the culture because they already have no support from the big community and now their small community is going to also cast them away so where are they going to go. They are going to be marginalized.”

“And then there’s norms within different immigrant communities as well, honour based violence usually against women, and that’s normalized...”

Shame and Honour (contd.)

"I'm so sick of blaming culture, but culture. When I do my trainings, I say "abuse is abuse, whether you're wearing a hoodie or a head scarf" so it's assuring that the patient knows her rights, that no one deserves to be abused, regardless of who you are, where you're from, who pays your bills – it doesn't matter, you are a human being"

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