Impacts of Culture on Perceptions of Intimate Partner Violence Among Fijian Indian Women

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Objective

Bring awareness around how Intimate Partner Violence impacts minority groups in the United States. I will specifically talk about the Fijian Indian community and its unique barriers when it comes to seeking help for IPV.
How does IPV impact Fijian Indian Women?

Fijian Indian Women at a higher risk for having poor health outcomes due to IPV because of:

- Colonialism
- Racism
- Minority status
The purpose of this study was to determine how cultural views impact Fijian Indian women’s perception of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).

→ The first objective of this study identifies themes in Fijian Indian women’s perspective regarding IPV.

→ The second objective of this study determines the impact these themes have on Fijian Indian women.
Methodology

Qualitative Study

Phenomenological framework

Cross sectional

Sample size: 10 Women

Data was collected through Face-to-face interviews and participant observation

Semi structured interview with open ended questions.

Recruited on social media platforms and snowballing
Results

Intimate Partner Violence

Silenced
“When It comes to the Fijian Indian community Itself It's more secretive.”

Normalized
“I think they’ve normalized it to such an extent, where to them Its “oh that’s what happens”.

Familism/Collectivism
I feel like even if it's evident, your family will tell you no, don't report it

Shame and judgement
“Oh, you have lived with this guy for so long. Now you decided to leave now you decide to move on? Why couldn't you leave in the first place?”

Patriarchy/Traditional gender roles
They sort of have this idea of being in power and to have control as they consider women and children to be property

Generational Gap/Learned behavior
I feel like those in our parents and our grandparent’s generations and before, think that it's normal

Hinduism
It sets the stage for intimate partner violence by framing the way people should act.

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Discussion: What does help look like?

Establish Trust
“Sometimes it takes a while for people to talk about things that are really hurting them. Especially in this community, we are taught ‘oh don’t say that, don’t say that, don’t say that.’”

Provide Privacy
“They would have to be alone and in a safe setting to really share that kind of information.”

Determine Needs
“I think I’d have to ask ‘is she living with that person? Is she living at home?’ Does that person have access to a house?”
Cultural factors play a significant role in determining whether women within the community seek help for IPV. Fijian Indian women often do not seek help for IPV, which leads to poor health.
References