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OS IMPACTOS DE EVENTOS TRAUMÁTICOS ESPECÍFICOS DO GÉNERO NO BEM-ESTAR PSICOLÓGICO DAS MULHERES REFUGIADAS: UM PROTOCOLO DE REVISÃO DO ÂMBITO DE APLICAÇÃO

THE IMPACTS OF GENDER-SPECIFIC TRAUMATIC EVENTS ON REFUGEE WOMEN'S PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING: A SCOPING REVIEW PROTOCOL

LOS IMPACTOS DE LOS EVENTOS TRAUMÁTICOS ESPECÍFICOS DE GÉNERO EN EL BIENESTAR PSICOLÓGICO DE LAS MUJERES REFUGIADAS: UN PROTOCOLO DE REVISIÓN DE ALCANCE

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RESUMO

Introdução: A migração forçada, em geral, compreende uma série de eventos traumáticos num período multifásico prolongado; no entanto, as mulheres refugiadas suportam tipicamente eventos traumáticos específicos do género durante sua jornada migratória. Apesar dos típicos impactos negativos relatados dos eventos traumáticos, a literatura também identifica mudanças positivas pós-traumáticas como bem-estar psicológico pós-traumático.

Objetivo: Identificar sistematicamente os eventos traumáticos baseados no género ao longo da jornada migratória e o impacto destes eventos no bem-estar psicológico das mulheres refugiadas pós-traumáticas

Métodos: O PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (Tricco et al. 2018) e o Joanna Briggs Institute Manual for Evidence Synthesis (Peters et al. 2020) orientarão esta revisão. Por conseguinte, será revista sistematicamente a literatura académica e cinzenta extraída de PsycInfo, PubMed, Embase, SCOPUS, CINAHL, assim como Open Grey e Google Scholar. A estratégia de pesquisa consistirá em sinónimos para as três construtores básicos: eventos traumáticos específicos do género, bem-estar psicológico, e mulheres refugiadas. Dois revisores irão rever e extrair resultados de estudos qualitativos, quantitativos, e de métodos mistos. Os resultados serão codificados e apresentados tematicamente utilizando a versão NVivo 11.

Resultados: Os eventos traumáticos identificados com base no género ao longo da jornada migratória e o impacto destes eventos no bemestar psicológico pós-traumático das mulheres refugiadas serão apresentados de forma exaustiva no relatório completo.

Conclusão: Os resultados identificarão conceitos-chave, as lacunas da investigação e os tipos e fontes de provas para compreender o bemestar psicológico das mulheres refugiadas após a sua reinstalação

Palavras-chave: bem-estar psicológico; refugiado; eventos traumáticos específicos do género; mulher/mulheres

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Forced migration, in general, comprises a series of traumatic events in a prolonged multiphase period; however, women refugees typically endure gender-specific traumatic events through their migration journey. Despite the typical reported negative impacts of traumatic events, the literature also identifies positive posttraumatic changes as posttrauma psychological wellbeing.

Objective: To systematically identify the gender-based traumatic events throughout the migration journey and the impact of these events on the refugee women's posttrauma psychological wellbeing

Methods: The PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (Tricco et al. 2018) and the Joanna Briggs Institute Manual for Evidence Synthesis (Peters et al. 2020) will guide this scoping review. Therefore, it will systematically review academic and grey literature extracted from PsycInfo, PubMed, Embase, SCOPUS, CINAHL, as well as Open Grey and Google Scholar. The search strategy will consist of synonyms for the three basic constructs: gender-specific traumatic events, psychological wellbeing, and women refugees. Two reviewers will review and extract results from qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods studies. The results will be coded and presented thematically using NVivo version 11.

Results: The identified gender-based traumatic events throughout the migration journey and the impact of these events on the refugee women's posttrauma psychological wellbeing will be comprehensively presented in the full report.

Conclusion: The findings will identify key concepts, the research gaps, and types and sources of evidence to understand refugee women's psychological wellbeing post-resettlement.

Keywords: psychological wellbeing; refugee; gender-specific traumatic events; woman/women

RESUMEN

Introducción: La migración forzosa, en general, comprende una serie de acontecimientos traumáticos a lo largo de un período prolongado de varias fases; sin embargo, las mujeres refugiadas suelen sufrir acontecimientos traumáticos específicos de su género durante su viaje migratorio. A pesar de los típicos impactos negativos reportados de los eventos traumáticos, la literatura también identifica cambios postraumáticos positivos como el bienestar psicológico postraumático.

Objetivo: Identificar sistemáticamente los acontecimientos traumáticos basados en el género a lo largo del viaje migratorio y el impacto de estos acontecimientos en el bienestar psicológico de las mujeres refugiadas postraumáticas.

Métodos: La Extensión PRISMA para Revisiones de Alcance (Tricco et al. 2018) y el Manual de Síntesis de la Evidencia del Instituto Joanna Briggs (Peters et al. 2020) guiarán esta revisión. Por lo tanto, se revisará sistemáticamente la literatura académica y gris extraída de PsycInfo, PubMed, Embase, SCOPUS, CINAHL, así como Open Grey y Google Scholar. La estrategia de búsqueda consistirá en sinónimos para los tres constructores básicos: eventos traumáticos específicos de género, bienestar psicológico y mujeres refugiadas. Dos revisores revisarán y extraerán los resultados de los estudios cualitativos, cuantitativos y de métodos mixtos. Los resultados se codificarán y presentarán temáticamente utilizando NVivo 11.

Resultados: Los acontecimientos traumáticos de género identificados a lo largo del viaje migratorio y el impacto de estos acontecimientos en el bienestar psicológico postraumático de las mujeres refugiadas se presentarán de forma exhaustiva en el informe completo.

Conclusión: Los resultados identificarán los conceptos clave, las lagunas en la investigación y los tipos y fuentes de pruebas para comprender el bienestar psicológico de las mujeres refugiadas tras el reasentamiento.

Palabras Clave: bienestar psicológico; refugiado; eventos traumáticos específicos de género; mujer/mujeres

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INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, the refugee population is at its highest since World War II (The U.N. Refugee Agency, 2019). More than two-thirds of refugees (67%) are from the Middle East, South America, and Africa (United Nations Higher Commissionaire for Refugees [UNHCR], 2020). Women reportedly constitute half of the world's refugee population (The U.N. Refugee Agency, 2019; UNHCR-women, 2021) and are regarded as one of the world's most vulnerable groups and the world's biggest minority. They are predominantly from patriarchal societies (UNHCR, 2017).

Women are more likely to experience an array of unique gender directed traumatic events throughout their life span (Olff, 2017). In the case of refugee women, their experience of traumatic events throughout the migration journey have been found to impact their psychological wellbeing post-resettlement (Schweitzer et al., 2018).

1. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In past decades, attempts to clarify what constitutes a potentially traumatic event and its impact on individuals have provided a lexicon of interpretations that often create confusion (Courtois et al., 2009; McCormack & Thomson, 2017). The American Psychiatric Association (2013) defines trauma as actual or threatened death, serious injury, or sexual violence. Many studies differentiate between single incidence trauma, cumulative non-interpersonal traumas, cumulative interpersonal traumas or complex traumas (Kira, 2001; McCormack et al., 2021). A variety of reactions have been reported following exposure to traumatic events indicating that individual experiences fall on a spectrum from none to severe (Briere, Agee & Dietrich, 2016; Weathers & Keane, 2007); and the adaptation process may either result in assimilation or accommodating negative and positive posttrauma changes (Joseph & Linley, 2005).

The psychopathological impacts of gender-based trauma in women refugees include but are not limited to posttraumatic stress disorder (Vallejo-Martín et al., 2021), depression and anxiety (Hossain et al., 2021). However, Joseph and Linley's (2005) organismic valuing process theory (OVP) defines positive changes after exposure to traumatic events as growth out of adversity. This is seen as changes in appreciation of self, relations with others, and changes in worldview. Perceived or real posttrauma psychological wellbeing encompasses self-acceptance, environmental mastery, personal growth, autonomy, positive relations with others, and a purpose in life (Ryff, 1989; Ryff & Singer, 1996). Therefore, an overview of literature assists in understanding refugee women's posttrauma psychological wellbeing.

A scoping review will better identify, map and synthesise the available evidence and pinpoint knowledge gaps while capturing the breadth of literature that reports on the journey of refugee women, potentially traumatic experiences, and their impact on the posttrauma psychological wellbeing of women refugees. The purpose of the review is to provide an overview of literature rather than informing clinical guidelines or practices (Peters et al., 2020) by answering the research question:

- to synthesise the literature concerning gender-specific trauma and psychological wellbeing changes in refugee women in the aftermath of the refugee journey and provide an opportunity to identify key concepts, gaps in the research, and types and sources of evidence (Arksey & O'Malley 2005).

2. METHODS

2.1 Study design

Grant and Booth (2009) define Scoping review as a "preliminary assessment of potential size and scope of available research literature. They aim to identify the nature and extent of research evidence (usually including ongoing research)." A scoping review seeks a more inclusive breadth of commentary than traditional systematic reviews with correspondingly a more expansive inclusion criteria to identify knowledge gaps, scope a body of literature, clarify concepts, or investigate research conduct. This scoping review intends to report the breadth of research and identify knowledge gaps to update research areas. Therefore, the authors will utilise the PRISMA extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) tool and seek advice from The Joanna Briggs Institute Manual for Evidence Synthesis (Peters et al., 2020). The current scoping review intends to present a descriptive report of the reviewed material deprived of analytically assessing individual studies or integrating evidence from different research (Brien et al., 2010); therefore, no bias is involved. Therefore, the quality assessment and critical appraisal of the risk of biases are not required in the current scoping review (Peters et al., 2020).

2.2 Data collection instruments

The authors screened the electronic databases based on the topic, and the most applicable databases with the most coverage were underscored as PsycInfo, PubMed, Embase, SCOPUS, and CINAHL.

A broad list of synonyms related to each of the three constructs (gender-specific traumatic events, psychological wellbeing, women refugees) was prepared based on titles, abstracts, and index terms of relevant studies (see Table 1).



Table 1 - Full list of search terms and synonyms for each of the three research constructs

Gender-Specific Traumatic Events	Psychological Wellbeing	
Trauma	Psychological wellbeing	
Psychological or Mental distress	Autonomy	
Genocide or Ethnic cleansing or Ethnic minority or Racism or Exile	Environmental mastery	
Torture or Abuse or Violence	Personal growth	
Combat Experience or War or Armed conflict or Survivor or Victim	Positive relations with others or Positive relationships	
Assault or harassment or rape	Purpose in life	
Human trafficking	Self-acceptance	
Neglect	Posttraumatic growth	
Natural disaster	Growth out of adversity or Adversarial growth	
Forced marriage	Thriving	
Persecution	Meaning-making	
Loss or Death		
Betrayal		
	Women Refugees	
	Refugee	
	Forced migration	
	Humanitarian migration	
	AND	
	Female	
	Girl	
	Woman or women	
	Spouse	
	Wife or wives	
	Widow	
	Mother	

A Boolean search with truncations and wildcards will be used for the scoping review as follows:

- Population (Women Refugees): (Female or Girl or Wom?n or Spouse* or Wife or Wives or Widow* or Mother*) AND (Refug* or Forced migrat* or Humanitarian migrat*) AND Concept (Gender-specific traumatic events): (Trauma* or Psychological distress or Mental ill* or Mental disorder* or Mental disease* or Posttraumatic stress disorder or Genocide or Ethnic cleansing or Ethnic minority or Racism or Exile or Tortur* or Abus* or Violen* or Combat Experience* or War* or Armed conflict or Surviv* or Victim* or Assault or Harassment or Rap* or Human trafficking or Negl* or Natural disaster* or Forced marriage or Persecut* or Loss or Death or Betray*) AND Context (Psychological wellbeing): (Psychological wellbeing or Autonomy or Environmental mastery or Personal growth or Relation* with other* or Positive relation* or Purpose in life or Self-acceptance or Posttrauma* growth or Growth out of adversity or Adversarial growth or Thriving or Meaning-mak*) - Limiters: Years 1992 –2022; human studies only

According to the PRISMA flow diagram, the additional hand-searched and suggested studies will be screened for inclusion. Therefore, the first Author will perform the final manual reference screening on the included full-text papers to identify any probable missing articles. Likewise, the Author will search Open Grey and Google Scholar for acceptable grey literature. Lastly, in case of requiring more information, the Author will seek the professional recommendations of experts and associations.

2.3 Requirements (inclusion and exclusion criteria)

2.3.1 Inclusion

2.3.1.1 Participants

This scoping review will include studies inclusive to refugees with the background of forced or involuntary displacement from the unique perspective of women refugees.

2.3.1.2 Concept

Refugees' trauma narratives often describe horrific events directed at stateless individuals in vulnerable situations (McCormack & Tapp, 2019; McCormack & Strezov, 2020), often reported as cumulative and complex traumas. In addition, gender often plays a part in the type of traumatic threat (Olff, 2017). Women endure and report more frequent interpersonal incidents and sexual assaults than men (Gavranidou & Rosner, 2003, p.132), and different types of traumas experienced by women generate different reactions and are most likely to give rise to ongoing psychological complications (Bowers, 2009, p.14). Gender-specific traumatic events refer to gender-specific types of distressing events. As a result, the current scoping review seeks the type and severity of traumatic events experienced by women refugees pre, during and post-migration.

2.3.1.3 Context

Diverse cultures refer to psychological wellbeing differently. Refugee women's studies need to be considered from within their cultural context to understand the impact of the migration journey, including gender-based traumatic events, and how women respond

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psychologically to these events. For many refugee women, there is no personal choice as many come from minority groups and patriarchal systems (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2017). Therefore, they are likely to be exposed to potentially traumatic events from a position of powerlessness and vulnerability (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2017). However, Hutchinson and Dorsett (2012) note that refugee women demonstrate resilience through adapting and coping post-resettlement despite facing tremendous challenges. Resiliency is the ability to resist negative change and return to the level of the psychological functioning present before traumatic events (Bonanno, 2004) rather than posttrauma thriving inclusive of behaviours and thought patterns not necessarily present prior to exposure to trauma (Turner & Cox, 2004).

This scoping review will include studies on posttrauma psychological wellbeing, as opposed to subjective wellbeing, involving changes in self-acceptance, environmental mastery, personal growth, autonomy, positive relations with others, and a purpose in life, during the post-resettlement stage. This scoping review will include studies that holistically refer to growth or positive posttrauma changes rather than resilience and psychopathology from a non-Western perspective.

2.3.1.4 Evidence sources/types of studies

Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods studies published in peer-reviewed journals about gender-specific traumatic events experienced by women refugees will be counted for inclusion. This scoping review will include primary studies in the past three decades, as posttrauma growth or positive changes after adversities began appearing in the trauma literature during the early-1990s; however, other systematic and literature reviews may conceivably be utilised to explore reference lists manually. Furthermore, the Author will search Open Grey and Google Scholar for acceptable grey literature. As it investigates the context of women refugees, this scoping review will include the government and NGO's statements, annual reports, fact sheets (e.g., Health and welfare department; U.N. Women), conference proceedings, theses, and dissertations with relevant data in various forms (e.g., pdf and presentation slides). Lastly, the reviewers will not apply any initial filters except limited to 'human studies' and 'years 1992 –2022' in the searching strategy, but as a note, the reviewers will exclude any studies without accessible English translation because of limited resources for translation.

2.3.2 Exclusion

In the current scoping review, the reviewers will exclude studies if they solely focus on voluntary migration or refugee-like status inclusive of asylum seekers, stateless people, and displaced individuals, even though the study includes traumatic events and posttrauma psychological wellbeing. Moreover, the reviewers will exclude studies if they do not singly report on the impacts of gender-specific traumatic events on posttrauma psychological wellbeing and its dimensions. Ultimately, the reviewers will exclude studies if they do not separately analyse and report findings about women refugees.

2.4 Procedures

2.4.1 Screening process/ study selection

The Authors use Covidence to export articles from searching databases, checking references, and the recommendations. After duplicates are removed automatically, the studies will move to the titles and abstracts screening section in Covidence. In this level, two reviewers will screen the title and abstract of each study separately. As a pilot screening, the reviewers will screen 25 randomly chosen studies for quality and consistency in screening to discuss conflicts and clarify any inclusion or exclusion criteria accordingly. The research team will develop a title and abstract relevance screening table (see Table 2) to provide a clear screening outline.

 Table 2 - Title and abstract relevance screening form

Selection Criteria	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria	
Participants	** Refugees refer to individuals with forced or involuntary displacement backgrounds in the post resettlement stage	**Studies focus on voluntary or non-humanitarian migration or refugee-like populations -i.e., asylum	
	** women refer to individuals older than 18	seekers and stateless individuals	
		**female under the age of 18	
Concept	**Gender-specific traumatic events refer to traumatic events experienced by women refugees pre-, during-, and post-migration	** Studies do not specifically report on gender-specific traumatic events	
Context	** Report on the impact of gender-specific traumatic events on the psychological wellbeing of women refugees in post resettlement stage, e.g., sexual assault impacts on personal growth	**Studies do not singly report on psychological wellbeing impacts of gender-specific traumatic events	
Design	**Primary research/studies; additionally, relevant systematic or literature reviews that may be used for hand-searching reference lists	**Studies do not separately analyse and report findings about women refugees.	
	**explore the gender-specific traumatic events impact on the posttrauma psychological wellbeing of women refugees. All 3 constructs:	**Studies without accessible full-text or full-text English translation	
	A) gender-specific traumatic events and psychological wellbeing and women refugees	**Non-human studies	
	Or		
	B) the combination of relevant synonyms of 3 constructs: e.g., institutional domestic violence, life purpose, refugee female		
	**Relevant studies without available abstracts consider for the full-text screening		



It assists in preventing the waste of resources in acquiring studies that will not take on the minimum inclusion criteria (e.g., the reviewers will include the presented potential studies without available abstract for subsequent review of the full-text screening). The actual title and abstract reviewing process will begin after the reviewers' agreement is greater than 75% over the screening process criteria. In the next level, the included title and abstracts will move to the full-text screening section in Covidence.

The reviewers will do the full-text screening, and another author will randomly select articles undergoing review to confirm revision based on the utilised inclusion and exclusion criteria. While the accepted studies will be extracted from Covidence for the scoping review analysis, a comprehensive table will be documented to justify the excluded articles after the full-text screening process in Covidence. The reviewers will contact each other to resolve any raised conflicts through the screening process, and this process is vital to ensure consistency between the reviewers with the research question and purpose. As a final note, two professional reviewers will be accessible to evaluate and revise any unresolved conflicts in the screening process.

2.4.2 Data extraction

The quality assurance will occur while the authors will individually conduct a pilot data extraction from 5 studies based on the customised template (see Table 3).

Table 3 - Data extraction tool

Author, year, title	
Study type	
Country of origin	
Country of study	
Study aims, objectives or purpose	
Population (incl age and sample size)	
Method	
Measures	
Gender-specific traumatic events- (incl trauma type and period)	
outcome(s)- posttrauma psychological wellbeing	
Results- quantitative or qualitative or mixed-methods	
Author recommendation for future studies	

After total agreement over the template and potentially revised template based on the pilot data extraction, each reviewer will separately extract the final data from the included studies in Covidence. The authors will stay in contact to deem any inconsistencies to attain a consensus throughout the process.

The authors will extract data based on the subsequent factors:

- author, year, title
- study type
- country of origin
- country of study
- study aims, objectives or purpose
- population (including age and sample size)
- method
- measures
- gender-specific traumatic events- trauma (including trauma types and period)
- outcome(s)- posttrauma psychological wellbeing
- results- quantitative or qualitative or mixed-methods
- Recommendations for future studies

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The current scoping review aims to synthesise the literature concerning gender-specific trauma and posttrauma psychological wellbeing in refugee women to identify key concepts, gaps in the research, and types and sources of evidence to inform practice using NVivo version 11. NVivo, in a mixed-method review, provides an organised and structured approach to offer thematical analysis. Therefore, relevant qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods data around the topic will be extracted, thematically coded, and reported in the full scoping review as a descriptive narrative. The report includes gender-specific traumatic events pre-, during-, and post-migration and their impact on women refugees' posttrauma psychological wellbeing post-resettlement. Findings might be reported in tables, figures, and diagrams.

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CONCLUSION

The final report will broadly represent the significance of the current scoping review, including understanding and offering a broad overview of refugee women's posttrauma psychological wellbeing.

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