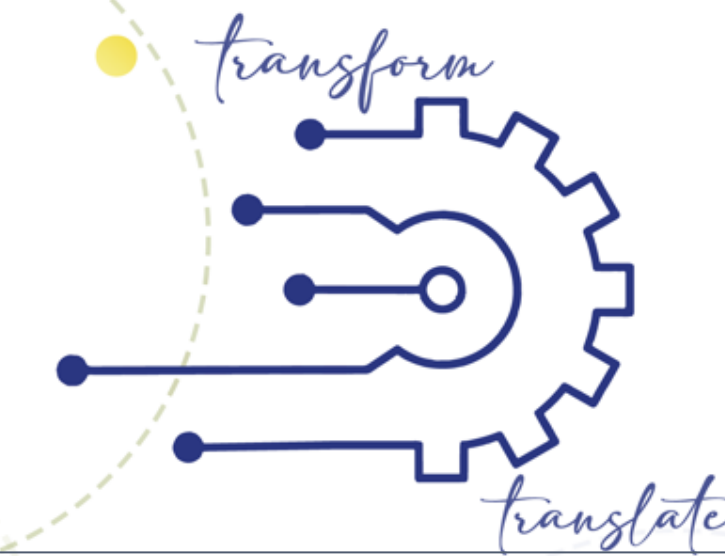


Perceptions and knowledge of marital rape among married men and women from Hillbrow.

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TRANSFORMING RESEARCH
TRANSLATION-
REIMAGINING
PUBLIC HEALTH EVIDENCE,
POLICIES, AND PRACTICE



BACKGROUND

- People around the world seem to have knowledge about forced sex as rape.
- However, when it comes to forced sex within the confines of marriage (marital rape), attitudes and perceptions often vary, with some people believing that it doesn't exist.
- Many people use the guises of culture and religion to condone marital rape and to undermine its effects on the survivors.

OBJECTIVES

- The aim of this study was to explore the perceptions and knowledge of married men and women from Hillbrow about marital rape.
- The study was undertaken to gain insight and to unravel underlying perceptions and understanding about the phenomenon of marital rape

METHODOLOGY

- The study adopted the qualitative research approach and a case study design.
- Purposive sampling, which is a non-probability sampling technique was used in the study.
- The targeted population included married individuals and a sample size of 5 men and 5 women (10).
- Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted, and thematic analysis was used to analyse data that emanated from the interviews.

RESULTS

Findings indicate that married men and women's understanding of non-consensual sex was influenced by various factors. These included religion, culture, level of education, society as well as involvement of family.

Women also shared views on how forced sex in marriages contribute to mental health outcomes like depression (antenatal, PTSD and postnatal depression).

CONCLUSIONS

It is hoped that the study will contribute to enriching public health advocates' understanding of people's viewpoints about the complex phenomenon of marital rape to design/formulate suitable social educational programmes for individuals, groups and communities.

ADVOCACY MESSAGE

We urge for updated policies and resources that will help identify marital rape and appropriate referrals to address the problem and effects stemming from the trauma.

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