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Critical perspectives on response to partner violence across health-related sectors

Anum Rafiq

York University, Canada

The issue of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Canada is one that has increasingly received attention over the past few decades. Various sectors have responded to this issue through the influence of global, national, and economic pressures. This paper provides a review of responses to IPV from these sectors, followed by discussion of the existing state of IPV prevention and reduction in Canada with an emphasis on gender, power dynamics, modern relationships, and cultural sensitivity. To comprehensively review the international literature and evidence on the burden of intimate partner violence on women, families and society, and to evaluate how health and related sectors respond to the issue. A comprehensive review was conducted of journal articles, books, and grey literature on intimate partner violence against women and system's response through health and related sectors using a critical feminist approach. This approach was anticipated to facilitate the critical synthesis of scholarly work on intimate partner violence by using intersecting lenses of race, class, migration, and social justice. Such unpacking of contextualized details on inclusion or exclusion of specific communities could set direction

for further academic and community based initiatives. Literature searches of four databases on Canadian responses to intimate partner violence from 1980 onwards, which was when violence against women started becoming an issue worthy of international attention. Medline, Scholar's Portal, International Bibliography of the Social Sciences and Google Scholar were searched, supplemented by hand searching of the reference lists from studies retrieved and specialized.

Speaker Biography

Anum Rafiq is a third year PhD Candidate at York University. She is a Health Policy Researcher with a focus on domestic violence, refugee determination, welfare states, and vulnerable communities. She has completed her Masters from York University in Health Policy & Equity, along with a Bachelors from the University of Toronto with a double-major in Health Studies and International Relations.

e: fep.anum@gmail.com

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