



A Scoping Review of Gender Perspectives in Egyptian Medical Practice and Policy: An African Context

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Published: 03 January 2009 | Received: 30 August 2008 | Accepted: 29 November 2008

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18530068](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18530068)

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Abstract

Gender perspectives are integral to equitable healthcare, yet their integration into medical practice and policy in specific regional contexts remains unclear. Egypt, as a North African nation, presents a distinct socio-cultural and medical landscape where gender norms influence health outcomes and professional environments. Mapping the existing literature is a necessary preliminary step. This scoping review aimed to systematically map the available literature on gender perspectives within Egyptian medical practice and policy. Its objectives were to identify key themes, knowledge gaps, and the types of evidence available, focusing on the roles, experiences, and representations of both healthcare providers and patients. The review was conducted following the Joanna Briggs Institute methodology for scoping reviews. A systematic search was performed across multiple electronic databases. Peer-reviewed articles, reports, and policy documents were screened against pre-defined inclusion criteria. Data were charted and analysed thematically. The search yielded a limited but growing body of literature. A prominent theme was the concentration of research on women's health as a patient category, with far less scrutiny of gender dynamics within the medical profession. Where the workforce was studied, a recurring finding was the under-representation of women in senior surgical and leadership roles despite their increasing numbers in medical schools. Literature explicitly analysing gender in health policy formulation was scarce. The existing literature on gender perspectives in Egyptian medicine is fragmented and disproportionately focused on patient-centred women's health. A significant gap exists in research addressing gender equity within the medical workforce and the integration of a gender lens in health policy development. Future research should investigate structural and cultural barriers to career progression for women in Egyptian medicine. Studies examining how gender biases affect clinical decision-making for all patients are needed. Policymakers are encouraged to commission gender audits of existing health policies and promote gender-sensitive medical education. **gender, medical practice, health policy, Egypt, scoping review, healthcare workforce, women's health.** This review provides a foundational map of the current evidence and identifies critical gaps, offering a direction for future research and policy action to advance gender equity in Egyptian healthcare.

Keywords: *Gender perspectives, Medical practice, Healthcare policy, North Africa, Egypt, Scoping review, Health equity*



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