



A Systematic Review of Gender Perspectives in Moroccan Medical Practice and Research

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Published: 18 October 2016 | **Received:** 10 August 2016 | **Accepted:** 10 September 2016

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18527723](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18527723)

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Abstract

Gender perspectives are essential for equitable healthcare and research. In Morocco, integrating these perspectives into medicine is an evolving field, but a systematic synthesis of the existing literature is absent. This systematic review aims to synthesise and critically appraise published literature on gender perspectives within Moroccan medical practice and research. Its objective is to map key themes, methodologies, and gaps in understanding how gender is considered in clinical settings and academic studies. A systematic search was conducted across multiple electronic databases. Peer-reviewed articles published in English or French were included. Studies were screened against pre-defined eligibility criteria, with data extracted and analysed using thematic synthesis. The review protocol was registered prospectively. The analysis identified a predominant focus on women's health, particularly in obstetrics and gynaecology. A recurring theme was the framing of women primarily as patients rather than as healthcare professionals or leaders. Research on gender dimensions in non-reproductive specialties or concerning male health was notably scarce. The existing literature reveals a concentrated but narrow engagement with gender in Moroccan medicine, largely equating 'gender' with 'women' and with 'reproductive health'. This indicates a significant gap in comprehending gender as a broader social determinant of health across all medical disciplines. Future research should investigate gender biases in medical education, career progression for healthcare professionals, and patient experiences in non-reproductive specialties. Medical institutions are encouraged to adopt gender-sensitive policies and promote gender analysis in all health research. Gender, medical practice, health research, North Africa, Morocco, systematic review, women's health This review provides a foundational

synthesis for researchers and policymakers, clarifying the current scope and limitations of gender-focused work in Moroccan medicine and outlining necessary directions for future inquiry and practice.

Keywords: *Gender perspectives, Medical practice, North Africa, Health equity, Systematic review, Morocco, Women's health*



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