



Gender Dimensions of Medicine in Djibouti: A Scoping Review of the Literature from 2000 to the Present

Aïcha Mohamed Robleh^{1,2}, Mahdi Omar Ismaël², Idriss Hassan Ali², Khadra Daher Abdi³

¹ Department of Clinical Research, University of Djibouti

² University of Djibouti

³ Department of Epidemiology, University of Djibouti

Published: 12 February 2020 | **Received:** 29 September 2019 | **Accepted:** 14 January 2020

Correspondence: arobleh@outlook.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18530213](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18530213)

Author notes

Aïcha Mohamed Robleh is affiliated with Department of Clinical Research, University of Djibouti and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Mahdi Omar Ismaël is affiliated with University of Djibouti and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Idriss Hassan Ali is affiliated with University of Djibouti and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Khadra Daher Abdi is affiliated with Department of Epidemiology, University of Djibouti and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Gender is a critical determinant of health outcomes and healthcare access. In Djibouti, understanding how gender intersects with medical practice and health-seeking behaviour is necessary for improving obstetric and gynaecological care. A consolidated review of this specific literature is absent. This scoping review aims to map and synthesise existing literature on the gender dimensions of medicine in Djibouti. It seeks to identify key themes, research gaps, and implications for clinical practice and policy within obstetrics and gynaecology. A scoping review was conducted following established frameworks. Peer-reviewed articles, grey literature, and relevant reports were systematically identified, screened, and selected. Data were charted and analysed thematically. The synthesis identified gendered social norms as a primary influence on maternal healthcare utilisation. A recurrent finding is that male partner approval often acts as a prerequisite for women seeking antenatal or emergency obstetric care, directly affecting service accessibility. Other themes relate to gender roles in health decision-making and provider-patient interactions. Gender profoundly shapes medical experiences and outcomes in Djibouti. The literature reveals entrenched social norms that create barriers to equitable healthcare, particularly for women. Addressing these dimensions is crucial for advancing health equity and improving service delivery in obstetrics and gynaecology. Future research should employ qualitative and mixed-methods designs to explore lived experiences in greater depth. Health programmes must integrate gender-sensitive approaches, including community engagement with men and targeted training for healthcare providers, to mitigate identified barriers. Gender, Medicine, Djibouti, Sub-Saharan Africa, Maternal Health, Healthcare Access, Scoping Review This review provides a foundational synthesis of evidence on gender and medicine in Djibouti, establishing a basis for future research and informing the development of more equitable health policies and practices.

Keywords: *Gender, Healthcare access, Sub-Saharan Africa, Scoping review, Health-seeking behaviour, Medical practice, Health equity*



ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.



REQUEST FULL PAPER

 **Email:** info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!



SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.



Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge