

P-1460 - IDENTIFYING AND TACKLING NEGATIVE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS CONTRIBUTING TO MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AMONGST IMMIGRANT BANGLADESHI WOMEN IN LONDON

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Introduction: The development of an optimal approach to ensuring good mental health and prevent health inequities requires more than solely medical solutions.

Objectives:

1. Review negative social determinants - economic conditions, exclusion, language barriers and cultural issues - impacting harmfully on mental health of immigrant Bangladeshi women in London, England.
2. Assess existing policies and services tackling negative social determinants and consequent mental health issues of Bangladeshi women.

Aim: Provide recommendations - policies and initiatives - to tackle identified negative social determinants and improve overall mental health status of Bangladeshi women.

Methods:

1. Analyse arguments concerning impact of negative social determinants and their role in provoking mental health problems.
2. Review available hardcopy and internet literature since WHO 2001 health report - Mental Health: New Understanding, New Hope - on mental health status of immigrant Bangladeshi women.
3. Identify priority areas to improve mental health status by tackling negative social determinants and consequent mental health inequalities.

Results: Number of negative social determinants impact upon Bangladeshi women - economic deprivation, cultural distancing and linguistic difficulties - contribute to increased mental health problems. Support services are available but more is needed. Current services underutilised as many women unaware of them or where/how they might be accessed.

Conclusion: Concerted action required across range of socio-economic areas to reduce negative social determinants leading to increased mental health problems amongst Bangladeshi women. These initiatives should be more effectively promoted through specific media outlets, schools, community gathering points and other institutions.