**Gender, Culture, & Schizophrenia: Sociocultural Influences on the Presentation & Experience of Psychosis**

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**Research Methods**

In this study, in-depth qualitative interviews were conducted with 20 participants diagnosed with either schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. During these interviews, information was collected on self-reported demographics and basic life experiences, with a focus on the ways each participant’s gender and culture impacted their experiences with mental illness.

**Results**

- **Psychiatric Diagnosis**: A total of 15 participants were diagnosed with schizophrenia, 4 with schizoaffective disorder, and 1 with bipolar disorder.
- **Gender**: 17 (45%) were female, 9 (23%) were male, and 5 (13%) identified as transgender. In our preliminary findings, it appears that gender and cultural minorities are more likely to be affected by social discrimination, which lessens women’s ability to socialize and sustain romantic relationships.

**Conclusion**

In our preliminary findings, male gender roles are more likely to be affected by a man’s inability to work and support a family. In contrast, female gender roles are more likely to be affected by social distress, which lessens women’s ability to socialize and sustain romantic relationships.

**References**


