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Patterns of Disclosure and Help-Seeking by Nigerian Women Resident in England with Lived Experience of Domestic Violence

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1. Introduction

- Although domestic violence and abuse is emerging as a global public health problem, the pervasiveness of the problem is unknown. This may be due to inadequate disclosure and help-seeking.
- This study focuses on disclosure and help-seeking practices among Nigerian women resident in England.
- Nigerians in the UK are the largest Black African population.

2. Research Objectives

The objectives of this study include exploring:
- Barriers to disclosure of domestic violence;
- Facilitators of help-seeking for domestic violence;
- Service support needs for Nigerian women experiencing domestic violence and abuse in England.

3. Methodology

1. Systematic Narrative Review (4 studies)
2. 16 semi-structured individual interviews
3. Inductive, Latent Thematic Analysis (8 themes)

4. Result: Key Themes

- Nigerian Upbringing
- Prioritising saving the intimate relationship
- Nigerian ethnic group leaders
- Impact on functionality

5. Decision-making Model of Disclosure and Help-seeking from Statutory Services

6. Conclusion

- Nigerian women experiencing domestic violence are likely to seek help first from individuals within their ethnic community, who may not be adequately equipped to provide appropriate support and referral to professional/statutory services.
- There is need for collaboration between community groups, religious organisations, voluntary sector organisations, and statutory services on supporting BME women experiencing domestic violence.

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