Final Project One Milestone: Draft of Community Need, Credibility, and Applicability.

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Al Wazni, A. B. (2015). Muslim women in America and Hijab: A study of empowerment, feminist identity, and body image. *Social Work*, *60*(4), 325-333. doi:10.1093/sw/swv033

**Community Need**

The community needs I decided to write about is Muslim women in America and the religious significance of the Hijab and how things have changed after 9/11. This topic of choice is an issue that I consistently read about and learn from. After 9/11 the perception of Muslims and women wearing their hijab took a turn for the worst and therefore resulted in discrimination, hate, and violence. At the time I was not educated on the meaning or of Islam. I previously worked for a not for profit organization where I assisted women involved in Domestic Violence, Rape, Crimes, and human trafficking. The human trafficking aspect intrigued me and therefore lead me to read numerous books and biographies of Muslim women and their horrible stories on how things occurred. Although this is a global issue, it is something that I focused on in a personal level. Therefore, it is in my hopes that I educate others on how all Muslim women are the same, their connection with the hijab and religion. I would like to take away the assumption that anyone who wears a head scarf is a terrorist and that there are powerful women under those “head scarves” and they want the same things we want, equality.

**Credibility**

The sources I chose came from the Shapiro Library from the school’s site. I specifically put in keywords America, Muslim, Islam, hijab to find the articles related to the subject. I also selected peer-reviewed and scholarly articles, in which are credible sources. In my first article “Muslim women in America and Hijab: A Study of Empowerment, Feminist Identity, and Body Image” written by Anderson Beckman Al Wazni, performed a study on 12 Muslim women who reside in a small town in North Carolina. The study requirements were that they wear a hijab and that they spoke fluent English. The author shows credibility in their study due to the nature of the study; the ethical standpoints were correctly followed being that he obtained consent from each member and all participants were asked the same questions. Although it was a small sample and this study can not assume that all Muslim women feel the same, but it provides real insight.

The second article is another study that was conducted and is titled “Identity, Perceived Religious Discrimination, and Psychological Well-Being in Muslim Immigrant Women” by MariekeJasperse, Colleen Ward, and Paul E. Jose. I find this source credible as well for it is a peer reviewed scholars article from Shapiro Library. The study consisted of a questionnaire that took months to develop and the participants were recruited in the Mosque and other organizations. Lastly, my third article consists of a study about post 9/11 and how discrimination has risen against Muslim women and the misinterpretation of Islam and the meaning behind the Hijab.

**Applicability**

These sources are the key point in my research question; it talks about the what, when, why, and how. There were small sample studies performed all being different scenarios and methods. It provides me a clear picture of how Muslim immigrant and Muslim-American women feel about their hijab. The assumption that is made is the women are forced to wear their hijab, when in fact, that is not the case. These articles are useful and provide the understanding of why the veil is used ad the empowerment it provides to many Muslim women.

**Conclusion**

The first research design was made by carefully selecting a particular participant who wore a hijab and spoke English. The study was an interview done with the same questions answered, the interview was recorded, and the members were given a copy. The second method was through a questionnaire, similar to the first study the participants were asked the same questions, and the difference was being that these participants were immigrants, in the first study they were all legal citizens (although that was not a requirement). The last study does not pinpoint that there was a study performed, but there is an explanation of a study. The study argues the process of re-Islamization where daughters are making it that wearing a hijab in America is a Public Islamic Identity. The disadvantages of the research are that it was not done on a global scale. Therefore, they are a micro size portion of the world. Two of the three articles followed ethical procedures in the sense that there was much time invested into the study and there was proper consent asked. The one article that did not indicate whether there was permission asked may not work best for my research being that nothing is showing such.

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