

Empirical Oral Presentation Topic: Gender Inequality Staff and student experiences and psychological impact of gender-based violence on campus

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Objectives /

Purpose Quantitative research indicates that gender-based violence is a problem of global significance occurring throughout the lifespan and across all areas of human life. Previous population studies have captured incidence, prevalence and impact but this study is the first to focus on those experiences within a higher education context. The data presented comes from the first multi-methodology whole institution research to explore gender-based violence at a Scottish university capturing both staff and student experiences.

Design /

Background Quantitative and qualitative methods were employed to gain insight into the range of problems and solutions. This study presents the qualitative data which explored individual experiences in more depth.

Methods /

A self-selecting sample of 21 student and 17 staff survey respondents (to date) participated in semistructured interviews. The data was analysed thematically focusing on the types of violence and the psychological impact experienced.

Results / Conclusions

Data indicated that (1) multiple forms of violence are experienced by staff and students but often remain hidden, avoided or normalised, (2) institutional responses are inadequate so that staff/students use self management strategies to handle their experience, and (3) staff/students feel vulnerable and develop mental health and wider relationship problems with lower performance at work or in studies.

Conclusions /

This data has offered a unique insight into the ways in which institutions also have a unique duty of care. This should be utilised to raise awareness of the seriousness of the issue, promote existing reporting and support pathways, and improve disclosure, reporting and support mechanisms for victims and those who support them on campus.