

Women Who Immigrate, Agency, and the Constraints of Gender Based Violence

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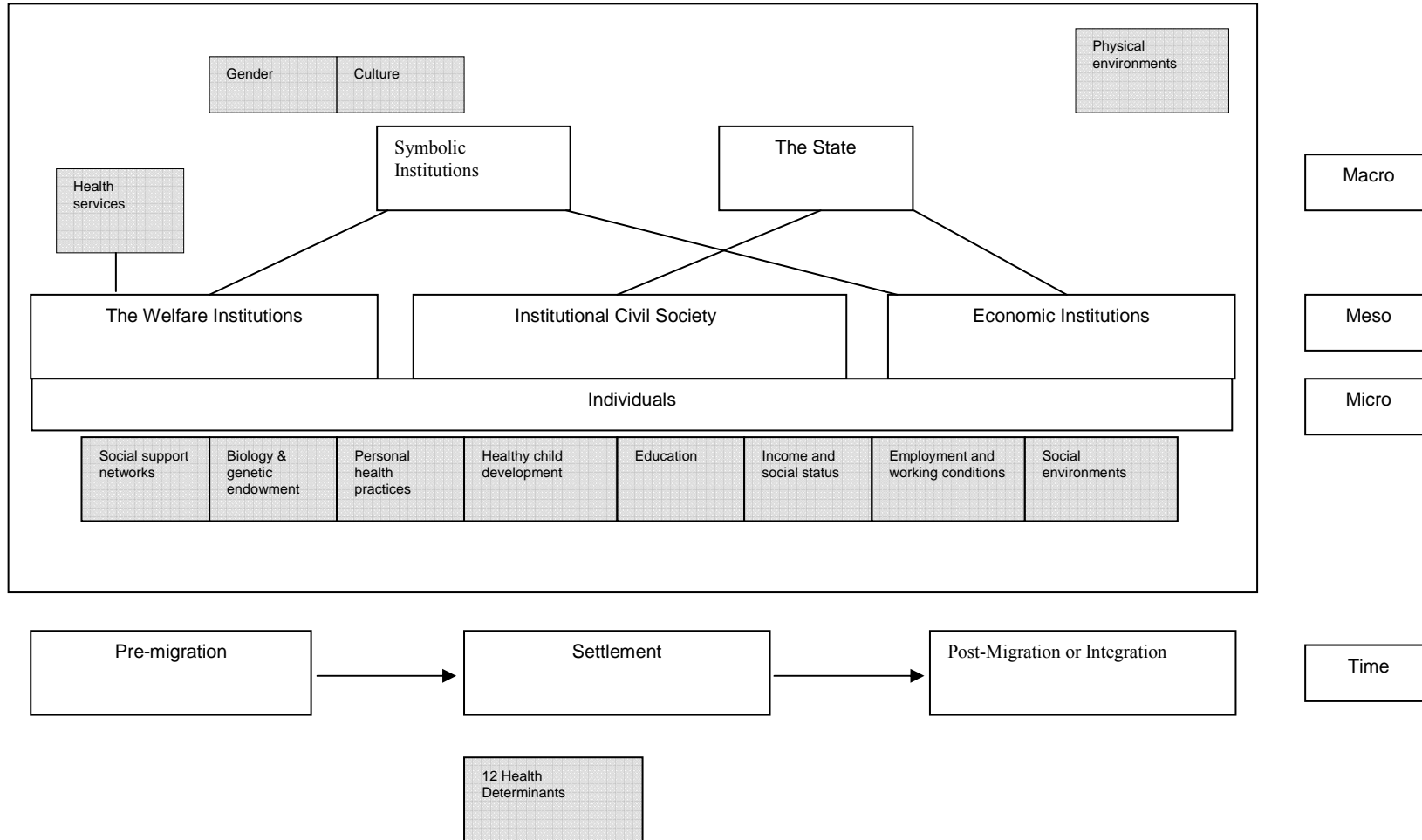
Topics

- ◆ The issue
- ◆ The framework
- ◆ GBV and the lifecycle
- ◆ Homelessness study
- ◆ Micro and macro constraints
 - Quotations
- ◆ Key findings
- ◆ Conclusion

The Issue

- ◆ Little investigation into the connections between domestic violence, migration and homelessness of women

Model of Migration, Gender and Health



Key Features

- ◆ The individual is the mediator between social institutions, both symbolic and material.
- ◆ Time and stage in the migration process make a difference.
- ◆ Gender and culture are intertwined but it is essential to do gender analysis.
- ◆ The state – all levels of government have an important role to play.

GBV & the Lifecycle

Interpersonal 

- ◆ Childhood
- ◆ Adolescence
- ◆ Young adults
- ◆ Adults
- ◆ Elder

Structural

- ◆ War and conflict
- ◆ Traditions
- ◆ Roles

Pathways Into and Out of Homelessness

- ◆ Three city study of immigrant women
- ◆ Longitudinal - 3 interviews over 6 months

Calgary

- 30 women from Africa, Middle East, South East Asia, South America, Europe, Asia, Central America, North America
- Age range 18 to 75

Constraints on Agency

Micro level

- ◆ Physical health
- ◆ Mental health
- ◆ Social wellbeing
- ◆ Impact on children
- ◆ Impact on extended family

Macro level

- ◆ Discourses
 - ‘Appropriate’ victims
 - ‘Appropriate’ solutions
- ◆ Woman as mediator of culture & community

Pre-migration

“Actually, I didn’t want to leave [home country] too...because we didn’t have, a good relationship between me and my husband. When he wanted a move from [home country] he didn’t want me to be close to my parents...he forced me....”

Settlement

“My husband he was very mean all the time and then we fight almost every day...but the only good thing that I’ve got, I have an internet over there so then I start to search for things that I want to know that I want to do. I wanted to study and then he [said], ‘No you can’t study here because we don’t have

Pre-migration, Settlement and Post

“You know, my husband was very smart, he was keeping me busy all the time. Like having children one after so that I wasn’t able to go out or anything to be with the people.”

Systemic Factors

Systemic factors are most relevant to prevention of homelessness in women who experience abuse.

Advocacy

Advocacy is key to the ability of immigrant women to end family violence and to obtain secure housing.

Conclusion

Some issues to untangle:

- ◆ Similarity and difference
- ◆ Gender and racism
- ◆ Culturally distinct programs and culturally competent programs