

# Review of: "Exploring Perceptions on Sexual Empowerment Among Heterosexual Black Women in Braamfontein, Johannesburg"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Very interesting and important piece of work, thank you for the opportunity to review it.

## Abstract

- Clear and concise
- Suggestion: Avoid the word "factor" (rather a quantitative term) and focus on themes

## Affiliation

I would encourage you to show your credentials (BSc, MSc, etc.) rather than "former student," and if you do not have any current affiliation, you may consider the term "independent researcher."

## Intro and Lit Rev

I would encourage you to consider sexual rights/human rights related to sexuality as this is a discourse framing experiences and policies. It may also bring more critical points into your discussion.

In the problem statement, it would be worth mentioning more recent studies to show the relevance/timeliness of your study.

Maybe also highlight the scarcity of studies on this very specific topic in Black heterosexual women. You have pointed out that most studies were European; maybe also the lack of studies in heterosexual women (compared to sexual minorities) may be worth mentioning.

Finally, the fact that it is framed by sexual and reproductive health (and rights) may impact how it is perceived or deployed (health-focused and not socially/interpersonally focused).

I think your study brings a feminist perspective that can provide valuable insights not framed by a global health discourse. This may transpire in your writing and not be intentional, and that is fine. If this is your frame of reference/intention, your

article would benefit from clarifying this positioning (whatever it is, i.e., intersectionality, African feminist scholars).

In the literature review, I would encourage you to present key recent studies (or highlight the lack of) in Black heterosexual women in South Africa.

## **Methodology**

Data analysis: Present the process/steps undertaken.

## **Findings**

It would be helpful to the reader to have a figure with the main themes and sub-themes identified.

## **Discussion**

A final paragraph on sexual empowerment, at the individual, interpersonal, and behavioural level would be helpful as it was one of the key models mentioned.

I would also suggest adding a commentary on current policies and whether your findings provide new evidence or bring complexity to these policies. Are the perspectives of your participants bringing any aspects that are not present in current sexual empowerment conceptualisations?