Use of Intersectionality in Telehealth Interventions for Heart Failure Research: A Scoping Review of Literature

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Purpose: Intersectionality is a paradigm, which can immensely benefit the research around various health issues [1]. It can be utilized at different theoretical and methodological levels in any given study [2,3]. There is a huge body of literature around telehealth interventions in Heart Failure. However, it has never been explored that to what extent the concept of intersectionality has been incorporated in these studies. This scoping review was aimed at mapping the use of intersectionality in telehealth interventions for HF.

Methods: Arksey and O’Malley’s framework was utilized for this scoping review [4]. The literature was searched in CINAHL, PubMed, and ScienceDirect. The keywords that were used for this search included: ‘telehealth’, ‘ehealth’, ‘heart failure’, and ‘intersectionality’. However, it yielded 0 results, so we decided to exclude ‘intersectionality’ from the search terms as it was the reason for 0 hits. The studies were selected based on abstract and full text screening. Each article was read comprehensively to assess if intersectionality was incorporated at any level. Data extraction was done in a table, specifically developed for this study. Narrative analysis was done for the extracted data [5].

Results: After the initial search, we got about 804 articles. After abstract screening, we were left with 56 articles. Then full text screening was done, which resulted into a total of 40 studies that were deemed to be meeting our inclusion criteria. The findings indicate that none of the studies truly incorporated intersectionality in all stages of the research. In some articles, it was talked about in the background section, but it did not come through, in the data. Also, most studies dealt with one or two of the participants’ characteristics in the analysis, and did not really look at the intersection of many possible characteristics of the participants, and their effect on the study outcomes.

Conclusion: To conclude, intersectionality needs to be incorporated into telehealth literature for heart failure, at a deeper level. It must be a part of the philosophical and theoretical underpinning of the research, and then should be weaved in, across sampling, data collection, data analysis, and discussion.

Title:
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Keywords:
Heart Failure, Intersectionality and Telehealth

Abstract Summary:
This scoping review is my passion. I am very keen to incorporate intersectionality in telehealth interventions literature, especially for cardiovascular patients. It presents important insights into the lack of intersectionality in telehealth research, and therefore urge us to apply this important lens to the research in the field of telehealth.

References:


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Author Summary: Saleema has been actively engaged in nursing research, publications, and presentations, throughout her academic career. She has several high impact publications and presentations. She is a highly regarded academic.