What Is Known About the Health of Marriage Migrants in Asia? A Scoping Review

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Background
• Marriage migrants in Asia are mostly women from developing Asian countries migrating for marriage with men from rich Asian countries.
• Facing hardships from both commercial marriage and migration, marriage migrants in Asia are at high risk of experiencing health problems.
• However, little is known about the health of this growing population.

Method
Following Arksey & O’Malley (2005)’s scoping review methodological framework, research articles and newspaper reports were searched, with the following stages.
• Stage 1: Identifying the research question
• Stage 2: Identifying relevant literature
• Stage 3: Selecting relevant literature
• Stage 4: Charting the data
• Stage 5: Collating, summarizing and reporting the results
• Optional stage: Consultation exercise

Results
Figure 1. Research focused areas
• Individual level
• Family level
• Society level
• Predictors of overall subjective health
• Status and predictors of QoL

Figure 2. Geographic representation

Figure 3. First Authors’ Disciplines

Table 1. Summary of Newspaper Reports

Results cont.
• Mental illness disparities
• Predictors or correlates
• Intervventional research

Discussion & Conclusion
• Research focus areas are not evenly studied across countries and cross-country variations in findings exist.
• Some evidence for health immigrant effect (HIE) are observed and this HIE could diminish overtime.
• Existing research reports only on data from receiving countries/regions, not from sending countries.
• Newspaper reports on marriage migrants were largely sympathetic across space and time.
• However differences in tones of the newspaper reports in different countries also exist.
• Marriage migrants experience many health problems and disparities, creating a challenge for healthcare providers.

Implications
• In response to the increase in diversity, immigration and globalization, healthcare providers, especially nurses, in these receiving countries/regions need to be prepared.
• Local citizens, NGOs, healthcare organizations and government need to exert collective efforts to reduce barriers and social challenges that marriage migrants face, addressing the root problems.