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How to measure empowerment in sexual health? Definitions and measurement indicators. A scoping review protocol

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2 Rationale

- The notion of empowerment has been increasingly used since its appearance in the 1970s [1]. It has long been mobilized in the field of health by community psychology [2, 3] before being used as a basic notion in health promotion [4-7]. However, what this notion covers is sometimes unclear: "the popularity and apparent sustainability of empowerment has not, however, led to a broad consensus on its meaning, its measurement or its

implementation" [8].

- In addition, the mobilization of empowerment theory in the field of sexual health has led to the use of notions such as "sexual empowerment", "sexual autonomy" or "sexual health empowerment" or "empowerment in sexual health" without providing more details on the definition and measurement of these concepts [9-11]. Thus, in view of the increasing use of all this notions, it seems important to shed light on their definition and evaluation.

3 Review objective

This scoping review aims to identify definitions of empowerment and empowerment in sexual health, and to describe dimensions and indicators used to measure them.

4 Search strategy

Data selection:

We will conduct a literature search on PubMed, Sage Journals, PsycInfo and Web of science. The searches will be conducted in French and English. The search strategies for each database will be designed in consultation with a librarian from the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD). We will follow the PRISIMA extension for scoping review [12].

4.1 Search terms

A	B	C
	Search for Empowerment and sexual health in English	Search for Empowerment and sexual health in French
Keywords	"empowerment" AND "sexual health"; "empowerment" AND "sexually transmitted infection"; "agency" AND "sexually transmitted infection"; "empowerment" AND "contraceptive use"; "empowerment" AND "HIV prevention";	"empowerment" ET "santé sexuelle"; "empowerment" ET "infection sexuellement transmissible"; "agency" ET "infection sexuellement transmissible"; "empowerment" ET "contraception"; "empowerment" ET "prévention VIH"

4.2 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

We will include articles that meet these criteria:

- explore the link between empowerment and sexual health indicators;
- use quantitative data methods;
- are published in English or French;
- are published between 1996 and 2020.

We will exclude following articles:

- Non-scientific or grey literature and non-peer-reviewed articles

Research will not be limited to a specific population or geographic area.

5 Data extraction

All articles will be registered in Zotero and Excel. Duplicates will be removed. KC will assess the relevance of all titles and abstracts based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The full texts of included articles will be assessed against the eligibility criteria by reviewer KC and any question will be discussed with the second and third reviewer. Other reviewers may be included if necessary for assessing the article selection quality. Some articles may be included by snowball, from the bibliographic references of the first articles found.

Two types of information will be collected: article characteristics and data on the measurement of sexual health empowerment.

- The characteristics of the articles will include the names of the authors and the date of publication of the article; the country in which the research was conducted; the objectives of the study; the study design; the nature of the data; the year of the intervention or completion of the study; the target population; the sample size; and the results.

- Information on the measurement of empowerment will cover the research question or hypotheses of the authors; the definition of empowerment in sexual health; the role of empowerment in sexual health; the assessed dimensions of empowerment; the indicators of empowerment in sexual health; the validation of indicators; empowerment score variables; the validity of scores; the other variables included in the analyses (dependent variable and control variables) as well as study limitations and suggestions.

6 Presentation of data synthesis

We will present the results of the search in a diagram that allows to trace the process of selecting items. The different definitions of sexual health empowerment will be presented and summarized in a table. The characteristics of the articles will be presented in a table. The dimensions and indicators of empowerment and sexual health empowerment will be grouped in a table and described. The scores used to evaluate sexual health empowerment and their validation will also be presented.

7 References

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8 Acknowledgements

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