

# Cross Cultural Counseling Center Series: 2

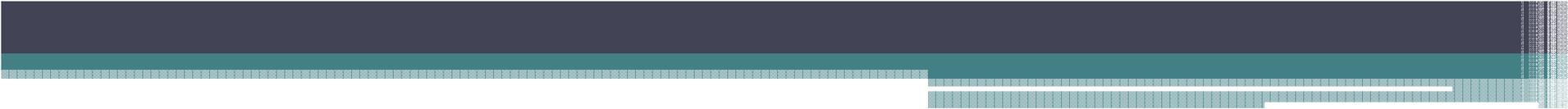
## *Help Seeking Behavior in Immigrant Victims of DV: Roles of Religion and Patriarchy*

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# Disclaimer

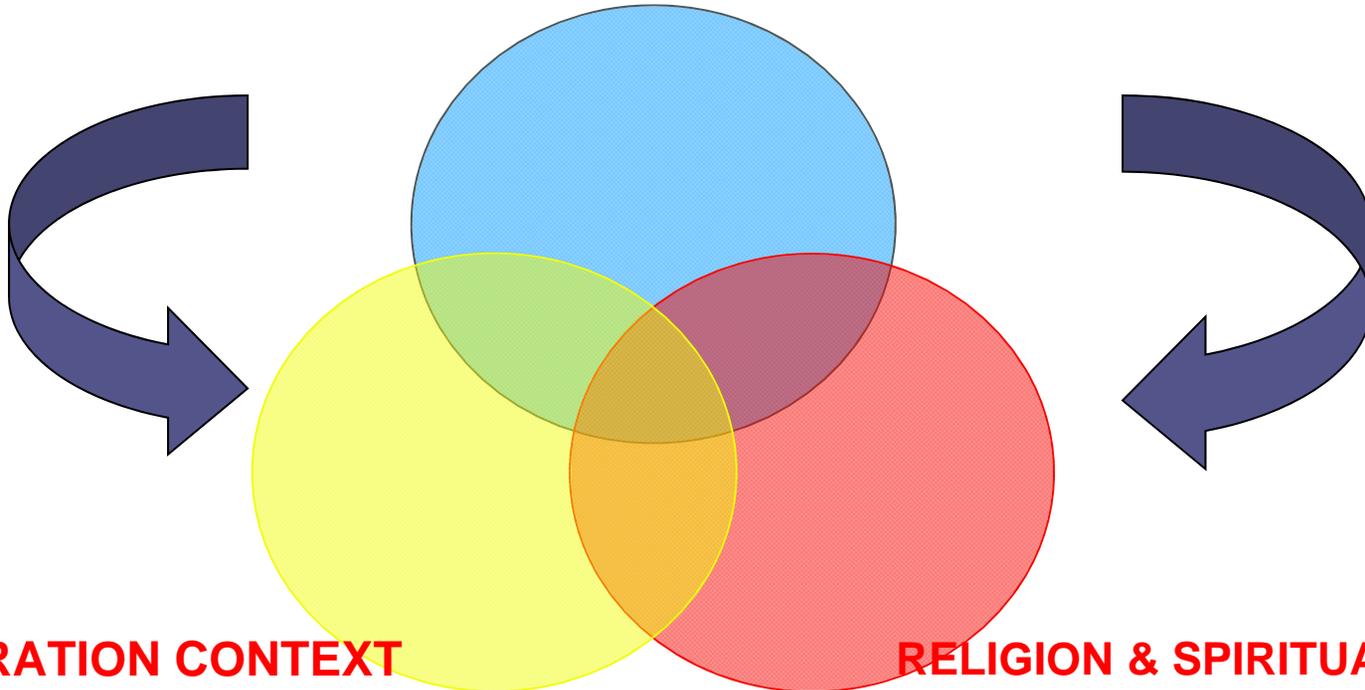
- The following information are examples of how religion may be interpreted or misconstrued to foster unhealthy relationships. The above exists in all religions such as Torah, Bible, Qur'an, and Bhagavad Gita.
- On the other hand, there are positive aspects of religion that can be incorporated to empower clients during their course of services.
- The gender roles depicted does not apply to all who are part of the same ethnic backgrounds.



# Domestic Violence: Intertwining Issues

- Religion and Spirituality
- Role of Patriarchy
- Perception of Women

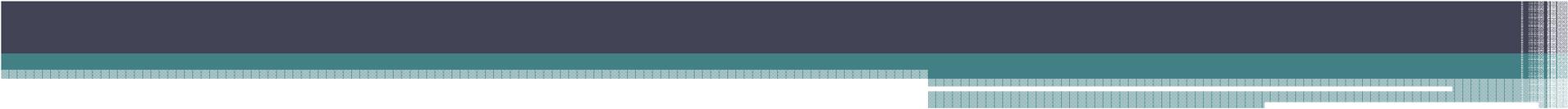
**PATRIARCHY**



**IMMIGRATION CONTEXT**

**RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY**

**GUIDES A WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE  
OF DV AND HELPSEEKING  
BEHAVIOR**



# Culture and Domestic Violence

## Race and Ethnicity

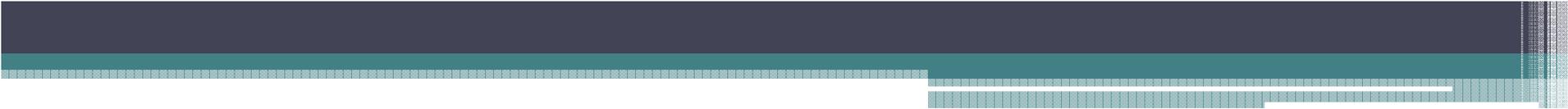
- fear of bringing shame to the community and reinforcing stereotypes, “model minority”
- gender identity becomes more important than their racial or ethnic identity

## Low socioeconomic status

- Interwoven effects of gender, ethnicity and poverty

# Culture and Domestic Violence

- Acculturation (*adjustment process in adapting to a new culture*)
  - Higher level of acculturation maybe associated with higher levels of physical and mental problems, loss of social controls, alienation from traditional culture
  - Conflicting values b/w culture of origin and dominant culture
  - Men and women may acculturate at different rates



# How Culture Shapes Domestic Violence

- An individual's experience of DV
- Whether perpetrator accepts responsibility
- Whether services are equally accessible to all
- Our own responses within the culture of the systems and organizations in which we work

# Role of Religion



# Religion: Definitions

## Refers

*“to a specific set of beliefs and practices regarding the spiritual, including belief in the existence of a single being or god, or group of beings, who created and govern the world. Ritual, prayer and other spiritual exercises are commonly part of religious practice”.*

*(Points of Wellness Toolkit, SAHMSA)*

# Religion also..

“play (s) a vital role in integrating experiences and granting those experiences meaning and motivational force, particularly to those who find themselves with few...allies except, in their view, the most powerful of all”.

[Peterson, 1996, p.43]



# Religion also defines :

- Gender roles
- Rules within marriage
- A context for belief systems and values





Christianity



Hinduism

## Bible excerpts

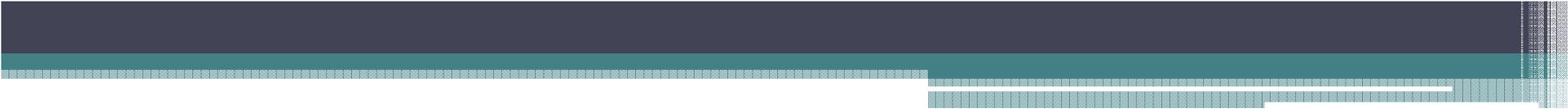
- *“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered” [Peter 3:7]*
- *“To be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed” [Titus, 2: 5]*

# Bible excerpts

- *“Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence and likewise unto the wife to the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body but the husband. And likewise, also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife . . .” [Corinthians, 7:3].*
- *“Wives submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord”, “Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward the” [Colossians, 3:18]*

# Holy Qur'an Excerpts

“Men shall take full care of women with the bounties Allah has bestowed upon them, and what they may spend out of their possession; as Allah has eschewed each with certain qualities in relation to the other. And the righteous women are the truly devout ones, who guard the intimacy, which Allah has ordained to be guarded. As for those women whose ill will you have reason to fear, admonish them [first]; then distance yourself in bed, and then tap them; but if they pay heed, do not seek to harm them. Surely, Allah is indeed the Most High, the Greatest”. [4:34]



# Holy Qur'an Excerpts

“.... ..He created mates for you from yourselves that you may find rest, peace of mind in them, and He ordained between you love and mercy. Lo, herein indeed are signs for people who reflect”. [30:21]

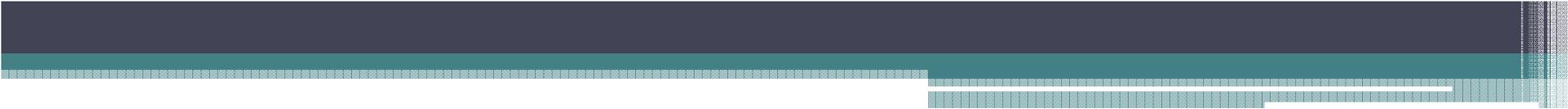
“....But consort with them in kindness, for if you hate them it may happen that you hate a thing wherein God has placed much good” [4:19]

# Hermeneutic Theory

- *“asserts that subjective comprehension and meaning evolve via a critical, dialectic interplay between text and tradition (s) [reader’s time, space, biography along with preconceptions or ‘prejudices’ that contour this vantage point]” (Nash, 2006)*
- *“once a text is recorded, its meaning is independent of the author’s intent and the circumstances that produced it” (Gadamer, 1975; Ricoeur, 1976)*

# Relationship between Religion and Domestic Violence

- Linkage to individual's identity
- Impacts individual's experience of DV
- Impacts individual's help seeking behavior
- Potential resource
- Potential obstacle (Religion used to rationalize and give authority to more human motives)

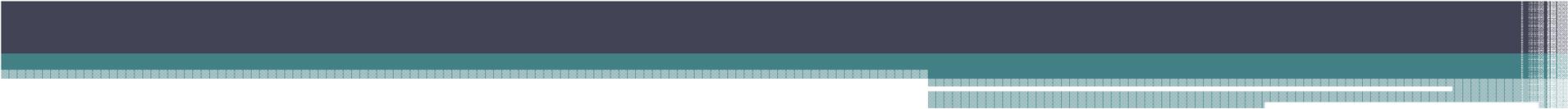


# Culture/Religion: Adherence to traditional gender roles

## **Hinduism/ Islam**

South Asians/Middle Eastern: “Arundhati” and “pativratiya”

- devoted daughter, nurturing wife and sacrificing mother
- Preeminence of marriage, motherhood, religion and rituals
- Concept of “izzat” and “sharam”
- Meaning of “honour”, a) virtue, b) status, reputation



## Culture/Religion: Adherence to traditional gender roles

### **Christianity**

Latinas:

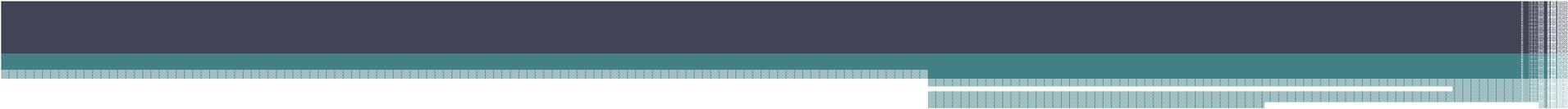
- Machismo: code of behavior that underscores maleness and virility
- Marianismo: code of behavior that underscores the spiritual superiority of women over men (Catholic worship of the Virgin Mary : spiritually untainted, height of morality, dual character, submissive and obedient and strong in putting up with the abuse)

# Barriers to Women's Help Seeking

Culture: Adherence to traditional gender roles

- Asian

- Traditional patriarchal system, hierarchical structure
- Fear of losing face with emotional expression
- Strong religious affiliation
- Avoidance of shame, “saving face” (Chae-myun” in Korean)
- Conflicting identification between Asian and American culture
- Effects of being labeled “model minority”

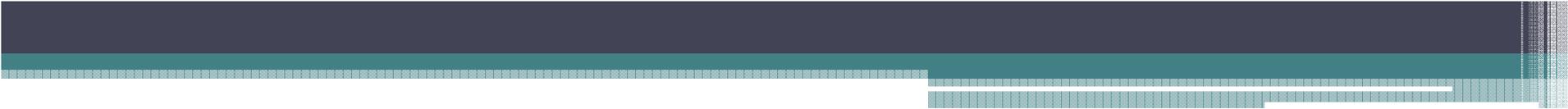


## Culture/Religion: Adherence to traditional gender roles

### **Christianity**

#### Latinas:

- Sympatia (kindness): avoidance of personal conflict
- Familism: family obligations and perceived family support
- Respeto: respect, deference to authority or a hierarchical relationship, unchallenged power of the father



# Assessment Questions

## **Beliefs**

- What are the basic beliefs of the religion? In particular, what are the teachings about gender roles, premarital or extramarital sexual relationships, homosexuality, contraception, childbirth, and abortion?
- What role does fate or pre-destiny play in an individual's life?
- How is death viewed? Do people believe there is life after death?

# Objective in understanding the religious context

- Honor individual choice and identity
- Celebrates survival
- Helps victims identify and utilize personal strengths and resources

*(National Resource Center on DV, 2007)*

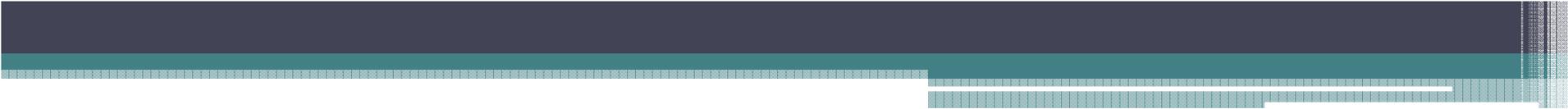


# Religious Coping

Resolve the abusive situation through:

- religious acts or rituals
- scripturally-routinized courses of action
- reevaluating initial conceptions of religious women's marital role (s)
- their abusers, or themselves

*(Nash, 2006)*



# Assessment Questions

## **Spirituality**

- What are people's common spiritual beliefs?
- Do they have spiritual beliefs that help when coping with stress or illness?

## **Religions**

- What religion, or religions, do people typically follow?

# Patriarchy and Domestic Violence

- Patriarchy : does not condone violence, however,
  - creates relationships based on power and dominance,
  - Oppressing women and controlling men (multiple batterers)
  - focuses on a woman's responsibility/duty towards her father, husband and then son

# Immigration

- Isolation
  - Limit women's contact with their family, limit phone calls and trips to the country
  - Prohibits friendships with "Americans"
  - Prohibits wearing Western clothes, learning or speaking English
- Immigration & Legal Restrictions
  - Threats of deportation
  - Threats to withdraw or not file papers for partner
  - Keep, destroy or threaten to destroy partners' immigration documentation
  - Prohibits working and limits access to money