

Interpretation of Student-Written Skits: Our Take On Human-Rights Regulations

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Main Research Inquiry

How do future health care professionals understand the impacts of restrictive reproductive and sexual health U.S. policies?

Background and Methods

Preliminary, rhetorical analysis of short dramatic skits (n=88) written by UMR students.

Students were asked to find and research U.S. legislation that aims to restrict access to reproductive and sexual health and dramatize it.

Skits focused on the real-life consequences of that law on different individuals: patients, health care providers, or others through drama.

Analyzed five narrative aspects of the scenes (setting/location, characters, motives, agency, and perspective) to look for patterns on how the student-authors of the scenes were representing the issue of reproductive health.

Thematic Findings from our Analyses

Overrepresentation of Southern states in creative products by students

Overrepresentation of abortion-focused skits

Most health care providers fictionalized as not breaking the law

Most of the skits portrayed the point of view of the patient and not of the health care provider

Most scenes took place during the clinical encounter

Stereotypes in characterization varied

Analytical Insights

Despite media depicting abortions as uncomplicated, UMR students' perceptions of attaining an abortion show extreme barriers. This could be because of a lack of diverse intersectionality in media and high percentage of women at UMR.

Although the media often depicts main characters as main characters, UMR students preferred the main characters to be patients.

UMR students upheld the role of a provider by having their characters adhere to laws and regulations despite media portrayals.

Future Steps and a Final Message

"The transgressive possibilities of the humanities can help future healthcare professionals see the intersectional barriers created by oppressive reproductive legislation... using performance and artistic inquiry as research methods ... might nurture a space, place, and praxis that can move how health professionals transform our social moment while also moving others to act and transform how we heal together"

References

