

**INVESTIGATING CULTURAL INFLUENCES ON PHYSICAL THERAPY PRACTICE  
IN THE UAE: DEVELOPMENT OF A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE MODEL OF  
CARE****MA CHRISTINAGUTIERREZ  
AUTHOR**University of Perpetual Help  
System Laguna**PHILIPPINES**

mariachristinagutierrez04@gmail.com

**NOEL R. SAN ANTONIO  
CO-AUTHOR**University of Perpetual Help  
System Laguna**PHILIPPINES**

sanantonio.noel@uphsl.edu.ph

**SUSANA C. BAUTISTA  
CO-AUTHOR**University of Perpetual Help  
System Laguna**PHILIPPINES**

bautista.susana@uphsl.edu.ph

**ABSTRACT**

Effective physical therapy involves more than just expertise; it requires strong communication and cultural awareness. Cultural differences and personal biases can impact both the delivery of care and the patient's reception to it. Recognizing how cultural factors affect expectations in healthcare is crucial, as mismatches can hinder patient outcomes and satisfaction. Therefore, cultural competence is essential for healthcare providers. It is important to recognize factors that influence culture that are not limited to race or skin color. It also requires an understanding of the impact of religion, age, language, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and gender identity on patient responses in each health care setting. Cultural competency training emphasizes understanding and acceptance of individual differences and behavioral patterns, as well as identifying biases that may affect the type and extent of care provided to individual patients. Achieving high cultural competency requires regular effort and passion. As the profession moves toward greater autonomy and patient-centeredness, cultural competence is critical to developing equitable health care practices and supporting optimal patient outcomes. The purpose of this study is to add to the current debate about the role of cultural elements in physiotherapy, and ultimately create a model that is culturally sensitive, with the goal of improving the quality of treatment and increasing the general well-being of all people receiving physiotherapy. The researcher deemed it necessary to work in this study to ensure patients receive proper care that is sensitive to their cultural context, ultimately benefiting both physical therapists and their patients. Research in this area not only fills a critical gap but serves to transform the therapeutic landscape, allowing for a more holistic approach to patient wellness that acknowledges the integral role culture plays in health and healing.

**Keywords:** Cultural Attitudes, Gender Roles, Extent of Implementation and Culturally Responsive Care Model