POLYNESIAN YOUTH AND THEIR POLYDIMENSIONAL EXPERIENCE WITHIN NATIVE AND WESTERNIZED SPACES: AN EXAMINATION OF PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH AND THE CULTURAL FACTORS THAT AFFECT THEIR EXPERIENCE OF LEVELS OF SUICIDAL IDEOLOGIES AND CULTURAL SHAME

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This paper reviews the binary thinking process of shame and suicidal ideologies among the Pacific Islander youth in the Pacific regions and in the United States. The binary thinking process says that shame is a stimulus that provokes unethical behaviors of individuals to avoid or appease cultural shame (Katoa-Taholo, 2019). The purpose of the review is to understand the outcomes of this binary thinking process, the factors that put the Pacific Islander youth at risk for shame and suicide, and the factors that may protect them against this process. The methods included collecting data from peer reviewed articles with specific restrictions on time, and using findings that were related to the experience of shame, suicide, and the well-being of Pacific Islander youth. The findings suggested that suicide, violence, and depression were some of the behaviors and attitudes in response to the binary thinking process of shame. The factors that would put them at risk for shame is related to the youth's ability to fulfill the culturally assigned roles within their different identities. The protective factors were found in the efforts to support the youth and their agency within the different systems involved with them including communities, schools, and families. More research is needed to find other potential outcomes in the binary process of shame, and how other indigenous populations may be affected by the binary thinking process of shame and suicidality. With further research of Pacific Islander youth and cultural shame, programs and solutions will be able to more appropriately address these issues among them and other indigenous populations.

Keywords: Pacific Islander youth, Polynesian youth, mental health, suicide, violence, shame, well-being, risk factors of suicide, protective factors of suicide