

## Abstract

The dynamic process of identity development encompasses the conceptualization of self and its various aspects which highlight its multifaceted and multidimensional nature. The present study focused on exploring the sexual aspect of identity formation and development in adult men with same-sex attractions and/or relationships. By applying the qualitative approach, a sample of ( $N = 11$ ) participants with ( $M_{age} = 36.73$ ,  $SD_{age} = 2.83$ ) were recruited through purposive and snowball sampling techniques. After taking institutional approval and observing adherence to the ethical guidelines, a semi-structured interview protocol was administered to each participant. Formal consent for research participation and recording of the interview along with the sociodemographic information was acquired online through Google Forms links. Interviews were first transcribed and then analyzed through the interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) which indicated the emergence of three superordinate themes namely (a) Sexual Identity Trajectories, (b) Universality of Identity Crises, and lastly, (c) Circumventing Crises and Variegated Forms of Support. Findings were then interpreted and discussed in light of available research scholarship. Apart from being an essential addition to the sparse body of indigenous scholarship, this study revealed the experiential realities of sexual identity development in sexual minority men that might become a source of awareness and insight for researchers, mental health professionals, social workers, activists and policymakers; working across diverse fields in public and private sectors.