

An Interpretive Phenomenological Approach to Children's Experience of Infidelity in Iran: Consequences and Hurts

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Abstract : One of the most common reasons for destroying relationships is infidelity. This study was conducted to understand children's experience of infidelity in Iran. In this qualitative research, the interpretive phenomenological approach and theoretical (purposive) sampling method were used, and the data was saturated by conducting semi-structured interviews with eight offspring of families affected by infidelity. All interviews were audio recorded and analyzed on paper after implementation. Acceptability and homogeneity of data were confirmed by different methods. Eight main themes were identified from the participants' statements: description of the family atmosphere, lack of security and distrust, emotional reactions, behavioral reactions, worry about the future, financial problems, mother's physical-psychological state, and mother's coping strategies and offspring's proposed solutions. The children's experiences showed that in addition to causing irreparable harm to the wife, infidelity affected the whole family and caused the children to suffer crucial consequences such as emotional, behavioral, educational, and economic consequences and mistrust.

Keywords : consequences and hurt, infidelity, offspring, phenomenology, qualitative research

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