

Nakunan: An Exploratory Study on Filipino Mothers' Experience of Miscarriage

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Abstract : Culture functions as a lens through which individuals experience universal phenomena. This study explored Filipino mothers' experience of miscarriage, or having been 'nakunan' - a colloquial term for fetal death. In addition, this study also aims to establish an understanding of the concept in Filipino society. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with 13 Filipino women who had experienced miscarriage. Following thematic analysis, there emerged several themes within certain aspects (i.e. physical, psychological, inter-relational) of a woman's life closely intertwined the experience, further reiterating the multidimensionality of the experience. Results show that Filipino values of family-centeredness and religiosity played a big part in women's experiences. Family-centeredness was seen interwoven in the women's self-concept and interrelations with others following her miscarriage, and religiosity came into play in the women's personal definitions, perceived causes, and coping with what had happened to them.

Keywords : bereavement, fetal death, Filipino mothers, miscarriage

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