

Living as an Infertile Woman: Case Studies from Kerala

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ABSTRACT

Kerala is one of a state in India. According to 2011 census, the population of Kerala is 33 million. By population, Kerala is the 13th largest state in Indian. In Kerala and India as a whole, having children has a meaning in religious wise too. Fertility is the capability to produce next generation through reproduction, by the onset of sexual maturity. Infertility is a disease of the male or female reproductive system defined by the failure to achieve a pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular unprotected sexual intercourse. Infertility is a very important global problem. It is a prominent issue in India also, causing social stigma, shame, and blame especially to women. Medically around 30% of fertility problems are considering women are the cause for infertility. The aim of the study is to finds out the Physical, Mental, Emotional and Social difficulties fancied by infertile women through various themes. The sample is five married infertile women participants, they interviewed from different age group (30-50 years), socioeconomic status, and culture across different region of Kerala included. Semi structured interview was the main data collection method here used. Based on the analysis of the interview, and main themes identified. The main themes are, feelings of women when identified as infertile, postponement of pregnancy, interaction in the social environment, discouraging comments from others, conflict and understanding between spouse and family and coping with being infertile, discussion with friends, meaning of life. In establishing themes, statements with meanings were that extracted, emerged in most of the transcripts. Infertility causes many physical, psychological and emotional issues in a women's life.

Keywords: Women, Infertility, Feeling, Coping, Communication, Psychological distress

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