



**Tehran University of Medical Science
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Lived Experience of Infertility in UAE Women: A Phenomenological Study

A thesis fulfilment of the requirements for PhD degree in

Reproductive Health

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Abstract

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Background: Infertility is a serious concern for general health in most of countries and societies. Just as infertility is considered as an important issue and even crisis in many cultures, it affects life of women in Arabic countries. This study aims to explore lived experience of infertility in United Arab Emirates women.

Method: A qualitative study with phenomenological approach was conducted in United Arab Emirates. Fourteen infertile women coming to medical and health clinic of maternity ward under the supervision of the United Arab Emirates University of Medical Sciences¹ were interviewed. Data were collected through deep and semi-structured interviews. Data were analyzed by Dickelemann method.

Findings: In analyzing data, five themes and ten sub-themes were extracted. Themes extracted are Empty home, Hopeful for becoming mother, unstable matrimony, Injured Female identity, and spirituality. Empty home is accompanied with hopeless home and Forced loneliness, Hopeful for becoming mothers accompanied with maternal dream and trying to become mother, unstable matrimony is accompanied with apathy of husband and uncertainty in matrimony, Injured Female identity is accompanied with sense of imperfect physical evolution and sense of paltriness, and spirituality is accompanied with seeking help of God and accepting God's will.

Conclusion: woman is the core of family. Woman tries to become mother sometime after marriage and if she is not successful, she tries to fix her injured female nature. She tends to spirituality and seeks help of God to become mother and avoid instable matrimony.

Keywords: Women, Infertile women, Phenomenology, Quantitative study, UAE.

¹ The gathering environment of this research is through the connection with the Obstetric & gynecologic department at college of medicine & health sciences clinical services, UAE University, Al Ain.