

THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDBEARING IN WOMEN WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY IN IRAN: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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Study Design: This was a qualitative study.

Objectives: This study investigated the experience of pregnancy and childbirth in women with spinal cord injury (SCI).

Setting: Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

Methods: The data were collected using deep interview with eight women with SCI. The study employed the interpretative phenomenological approach to provide a comprehensive understanding of the childbearing experience of women with SCI. MAXQDA 10 software which was used to manage the collected data.

Results: Five main themes have emerged from data analysis: "revivification", "fear and concern of motherhood with SCI", "flawed health care system", "maternal experience under a supportive umbrella", and "strengthening spirituality and religious belief".

Conclusion: Childbearing had a good effect on the family relationship, continuity of marriage, and quality of life. Hence, it is necessary to establish a center that provides consulting for the childbearing and childcare of women with SCI. Moreover, training for the healthcare workers, which includes nurses, midwives and gynecology specialists are highly recommended. This study can be used as a primary source of information on the pregnancy of women with SCI. It could also emphasize the positive aspects of childbearing in the married life of women with SCI. More studies in this regard are suggested.

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