



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**KURDISH PREGNANT WOMEN'S EMOTIONS AND THEIR EFFECT ON
CHOICE OF DELIVERY METHOD IN SANANDAJ, IRAN**

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By

ROONAK SHAHOEI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
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Chairman: Haliza Binti Mohd Riji, PhD

Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences

A qualitative study using the grounded theory approach (Strauss and Corbin, 1998) was conducted with the purpose of discovering the emotions of Kurdish pregnant women during the first, second and third trimesters, their contributory factors, and, how their emotions affect their choice of delivery methods. Twenty-two women in their third trimesters were interviewed either at the health center or in their homes in Sanandaj, Iran. Each interview was tape recorded, transcribed verbatim and analyzed according to the constant comparative method through open, axial, and selective coding. Trustworthiness was established through member checks, peers examination, and an audit trail of the research activities. Three categories, twelve subcategories, and five sub-sub categories emerged from the data in relation

to women's emotion during pregnancy. The findings showed that the women's emotions could be classified under four integrated domains – physical, psychological, interaction with husbands and relatives, and, interaction with baby. Apart from the physiological changes which caused the women to be uncertain about their pregnancy, their body image, financial situation and their feelings which were stimulated by the attitude of their spouses and relatives during their pregnancy affected them as well. During the third trimester, all attention was focused on the baby's health, thus making them think more about the methods of delivery.

Eighteen of the pregnant Kurdish women studied expressed preference for vaginal delivery. They said that they chose to have a natural childbirth because the baby would be safe. Based on the information mentioned above, the study put forward a substantive theory, named, “*safe passage*”. This theory explains the pregnant women's worry and consciousness to end a journey whereby healthy delivery and a healthy baby would result. The other most important finding that emerged from the data was the closer relationship between the women and their spouses.

The extent of physical and emotional support they received from their husbands contributed to the healthy positional adjustment throughout their pregnancy period. Feelings of self-confidence, pleasure and satisfaction were accompanied with increase of fondness toward their babies. There was also

the factor of social support from their family members. All of which contributed toward their decision for vaginal childbirth. The four women who preferred cesarean section were nuliparous. Their reasons were fear of vaginal childbirth, safety of baby and mother, and friends' encouragement. Their fear was mainly caused by the negative experience of relatives and friends who had difficulty with natural delivery and also by the lack of information. Through this qualitative study, an insight into Kurdish pregnant women's emotions was gained. Some practical and theoretical implications are given. Further studies are recommended.

**Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah PhD**

**EMOSI WANITA KURD HAMIL DAN KESANNYA KE ATAS PILIHAN
KAEDAH KELAHIRAN DI SANANDAJ, IRAN**

Oleh

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Sebuah kajian kualitatif menggunakan pendekatan teori sandaran 'grounded theory' (Strauss and Corbin, 1998) telah dijalankan dengan tujuan mencungkil emosi wanita Kurdistan yang hamil semasa peringkat pertama, kedua, dan ketiga serta faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi mereka, dan bagaimana emosi mereka mempengaruhi pemilihan cara melahirkan anak. Dua puluh wanita dalam peringkat ketiga kehamilan telah ditemuselidik di pusat kesihatan atau di rumah masing-masing di Sanandaj, Iran. Setiap temuselidik telah dirakamkan, disalin secara verbatim dan dianalisis menggunakan kaedah perbandingan malar melalui koding terbuka, aksial, dan terpilih. Kebolehpercayaan telah dicapai melalui pengesahan daripada pakar,

pemeriksaan rakan sekerja, dan siri trel audit kegiatan kajian. Tiga kategori, dua belas subkategori, dan lima sub-subkategori dikenalpasti daripada data berhubung dengan emosi wanita semasa kehamilan. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa emosi wanita boleh diklasifikasikan di bawah empat domen – fizikal, psikologikal, interaksi dengan suami dan keluarga, dan interaksi dengan bayi. Selain daripada perubahan fisiologi yang menyebabkan wanita mengandung kurang yakin tentang kehamilan mereka, bentuk badan, keadaan kewangan, perasaan mereka dipengaruhi oleh sikap pasangan dan keluarga mereka sepanjang kehamilan memberi kesan ke atas mereka. Dalam peringkat kedua, kebanyakan mereka mengalihkan tumpuan kepada kesihatan bayi, dan ini menjadikan mereka lebih berfikir tentang kaedah kelahiran. Lapan belas wanita hamil Kurdistan yang dikaji menyatakan mereka memilih untuk bersalin secara semulajadi. Mereka mengatakan bahawa mereka memilih kelahiran biasa disebabkan oleh keselamatan bayi. Berdasarkan ini, kajian mengutarakan teori substantif, iaitu, “Laluan selamat”. Teori ini menjelaskan kebimbangan dan kesedaran wanita hamil untuk mengakhiri sebuah perjalanan di mana kelahiran selamat dan bayi sihat adalah pencapaian terakhir. Penemuan penting yang lain daripada data ialah hubungan yang lebih rapat antara wanita-wanita tersebut dengan pasangan mereka. Sokongan fizikal dan emosi yang mereka terima daripada suami menyumbang kepada penyesuaian diri sepanjang tempoh kehamilan. Perasaan yakin terhadap diri sendiri, keseronokan dan kepuasan mengiringi pertambahan kasih sayang terhadap bayi mereka. Terdapat juga faktor sokongan sosial

daripada ahli keluarga. Kesemuanya menyumbang kepada keputusan mereka untuk memilih kelahiran semulajadi. Empat wanita yang memilih untuk pembedahan cesarean merupakan wanita yang pertama kali hamil. Sebab-sebab yang diberikan untuk cara kelahiran ini ialah ketakutan mengalami kelahiran vaginal, keselamatan bayi dan ibu, dan galakan daripada kawan-kawan. Ketakutan mereka disebabkan terutamanya oleh pengalaman negatif saudara mara dan kawan-kawan yang mempunyai masalah semasa kelahiran semulajadi dan juga kerana kekurangan maklumat mengenai proses kelahiran. Melalui kajian kualitatif ini emosi wanita Kurdistan hamil telah dapat dicungkil. Beberapa implikasi teoretikal dan praktikal telah dibuat. Kajian seterusnya disarankan.

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For whatever errors and shortcomings in this study, I am solely responsible.



This thesis submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Community Health. Members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

Roonak Shahoei
June-2010



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