

ABSTRACT

The thesis is focused on issues concerning prenatal, natal and postnatal medical care, which is being provided to Vietnamese women. The core subject of the research is defined as “How do the Vietnamese women reflect upon or respond to health care which is ordinarily provided to them during the pregnancy and labor period as well as the postnatal stage in the Czech republic?”

The objective was not just to find out how do the Vietnamese women reflect upon their experience with the care they receive, but also to investigate factors, which could have an effect on their perception and experience.

The body of the thesis is divided into a theoretical and empirical part.

The theoretical part is devoted to a brief description of the background of the Vietnamese women, including their culture, traditions and the health care system. Different traditions associated with the pregnancy, labor, and postnatal period are described in a separate chapter. It should be noted that findings gathered from expert literature have been enriched with information which comes directly from the author's own research. This part of the thesis is then followed by a short treatise about the history of Vietnamese immigration to our country and the last chapter deals with the system of payments for health care in the Czech Republic, with an emphasis on issues concerning commercial health-care insurance coverage.

The empirical part of the thesis represents the findings of the qualitative research the purpose of which has been to a) gather information about the traditions associated with pregnancy, labor, and the postnatal period as well as the expectations that Vietnamese women in labor have, and b) capture their perception of and experience with the healthcare provided to them during the pregnancy stage and labor in the Czech Republic. The conclusion of the thesis not only provides a reflection upon the issues researched herein, but it also offers a number of propositions intended for practical application by midwives.

Key words: foreigners, Vietnamese women, trans-cultural care, tradition, pregnancy, labor, postnatal period, quality of care