

Abstract:

This dissertation work aims to contribute to the understanding and explanation of individual psychological experience during the process of assisted reproduction. The research objective is to understand and describe infertile individual's experience during the process of assisted reproduction techniques treatment. The aim of the project is to immerse into the experience of infertile individuals and try to understand what the individual ascribes to himself, his infertility, reproductive medicine and how the individual perceives reality. The work helps to understand the experience of individual's perception of himself, his partner and his surroundings, in relation to his infertility and assisted reproduction techniques and what feelings and emotions he experiences.

The dissertation project is answering four research questions: *How do the participants feel about their child? How do the participants experience the process of assisted reproduction techniques? How do participants experience the emotions in the context of assisted reproduction? How do participants think about their partners and the social environments in the context of conception and ART?*

The nature of the adopted epistemological anthropomorphic attitude and theoretical models of the interaction symbolism and social constructivism, a qualitative case study research framework was chosen. The research case was a multiple case interpretation, where the file was chosen by simple purposive sampling and semi-structured interview became data collection method. Data was analysed using IPA (Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis).

The research results brought a panoramic view of individual's experience of the process of assisted reproduction. The most important themes which surfaced in relation to the child were: *the child as a plan, the child as a necessity and the child as a source*. In relation to assisted reproduction the emerging themes were: *ART as a necessity, a means of goal implementation, ART as hope, the loss of control over conception*. Themes arising in the dimension of perception were: *a sense of helplessness, sorrow, fear, envy and guilt*. The area of interpersonal relations was the most important topic of *aligning with a partner or mutual withdrawal*. The themes

which surfaced led to a deeper understanding of the points which individuals use to form their experience.

Keywords:

Assisted reproduction techniques, infertility, IPA, experience, individual experience.