

ABSTRACT

The thesis deals with pregnancy and childbirth among Roma women in the context of transcultural care. In the theoretical part, three main topics relevant to the subject of the thesis are addressed: (i) transcultural care and its development both abroad and in the Czech Republic, (ii) the Roma way of life with a special focus on those aspects affecting the way of perceiving and experiencing the pregnancy and childbirth by Roma women, and (iii) recent trends in providing care to pregnant and labouring women.

The empirical part includes a qualitative research into how Roma women perceive and experience pregnancy and childbirth, and what characteristics from the perspective of midwives make them different from the majority society women. Using qualitative research based on interviews with Roma women and midwives I gained valuable data upon which I have identified cultural differences which may affect Roma women's access to prenatal care, the manner of pregnancy planning, and the perception of pregnancy or parturition itself.

Based on these findings, I have analysed the applicability of the transcultural care model to Roma women. The main objective is to help midwives to better understand different situations they may encounter during the caregiving Roma women.

Key words: culture, transcultural care, Roma women, pregnancy, childbirth