

Abstract

The master's thesis deals with the experience of mothers and fathers in the situation of stillbirth. The aim is to explore how parents experience this situation from the moment they receive the news of the child's death, through the actual birth and possible saying goodbye to the child, to the first days and weeks following the loss. The theoretical part first deals with the definition of the situation of stillbirth in the Czech context, next it discusses the specifics of loss and mourning in the situation of stillbirth and subsequently it summarizes the findings of research describing the experiences of mothers and fathers in the various phases of the situation. The empirical part of the thesis represents the conducted qualitative research, within which the data resulting from semi-structured interviews with eight mothers and two fathers who went through the experience of stillbirth were processed using the method of thematic analysis. Through this analysis, five main themes related to the parents' experience were identified, namely: Meeting the reality of the child's death, Useless suffering, Need for support, Isolation and To live through or to deny. Each of these themes was further divided into two to four sub-themes. The results of this research contribute to the understanding of the experience of mothers and fathers in the situation of stillbirth in the Czech context.

Keywords: Stillbirth; Perinatal loss; Mothers' experience; Fathers' experience; Grief