P1-20: The Experience of Being a Woman of Childbearing Age in Mbarara, Uganda

Author List:
Presenting Author: Bonnie Pope
Additional Author: Bonnie Pope

Address: 2204 Oak Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32204
United States
Ph: 904-704-5153
Fax:
Email: b.pope@unf.edu
Institution: Florida Atlantic University

Presentation Preference: Student poster submission

Abstract Categories:
Research Interest Groups (RIGs): Community/Public Health
Thematic Areas: Health Disparities

Abstract:
Introduction: The purpose of this qualitative pilot study was to understand a Ugandan woman’s maternal and childbirth experiences within their society. These insights will contribute to nursing research toward reducing disproportionately high rates of maternal and infant deaths in vulnerable populations in developing countries as well as within the United States. High rates of maternal and infant deaths in Uganda add to family and community responsibilities of Ugandan women of childbearing age. By understanding cultural patterns and beliefs of Ugandan women, nurses can positively impact health outcomes through the implementation of relevant community-based interventions. Health care practices and policies can be crafted to improve the lives not only of Ugandan women but also of other groups of women experiencing maternal health disparities. The study's significance to nursing relates to developing practice models that incorporate the meaning of being a woman, experiencing health disparities, and having a baby.

Method(s): The study's first phase involved conducting two focus groups with seven total participants, using open-ended questions on womanhood, having a baby, and community norms. Validity of study procedures and methodology are under evaluation. Data from audio tape recordings are being analyzed for themes using the Heideggerian hermeneutical interpretive method (Diekleman & Allen, 1989).

Results: A thematic analysis of transcribed recordings is in process. Preliminary findings indicate that being a woman of childbearing age in Uganda is “hard,” yet having a child affords the mother respect from her community. Implications for future research and practice model development will be identified.
**Discussion & Conclusions:** Understanding of the meaning that women from vulnerable populations give to their bodies, pregnancy, and childbirth will enhance nursing expertise in maternal and child health care practices. Knowledge of and respect for unfamiliar cultural practices fosters awareness toward identification of innovative strategies to reduce health disparities for at-risk women of childbearing age.

**Abstract History:**
This abstract has been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.

**Financial Disclosure:**
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

**FDA Disclosure:**
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

**Non-Exclusive License:**

Submitted by:
b.pope@unf.edu