

The meaning of a bad childbirth experience: A qualitative study with women in Rwanda

SND-ID: snd1027-1. **Version:** 1.0. **DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5878/002900>

Download data

SND 1027 The meaning of a bad childbirth experience - Interviews 1-17.zip (735.41 KB)

Citation

Berg, M. (2017) The meaning of a bad childbirth experience: A qualitative study with women in Rwanda (Version 1.0) [Data set]. University of Gothenburg. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5878/002900>

Creator/Principal investigator(s)

Marie Berg - University of Gothenburg

Research principal

[University of Gothenburg](#) - Institute of Medicine

Description

Objective

Being pregnant and giving birth is a pivotal life event and one that a woman ordinarily remembers for most of her life. A negative childbirth experience can affect a woman's health well beyond the episode of the labour and birth itself. This study explored the meaning of a bad childbirth as experienced by women who have given birth in Rwanda.

Methods

In a cross-sectional household study conducted in Northern Province and in Kigali City, the capital of Rwanda, a structured questionnaire was answered by women who had given birth 1 to 13 months earlier. One question answered by 898 women asked them to rate their overall experience of childbirth from 0 (very bad) to 10 (very good). Of these, 28 women (3.1%) rating the childbirth experience as bad (< 4) were contacted for individual interviews. Seventeen of these women accepted to participate in individual in-depth interviews. The texts were analysed with a reflective lifeworld approach.

Results

The essential meaning of a "bad" childbirth experience was that the women had been exposed to disrespectful care, constituted by neglect, verbal or physical abuse, insufficient information, and denial of their husband as a companion. The actions of carers included abandonment, humiliation, shaming and insult, creating feelings of insecurity, fear and distrust in the women. Two of the women reported no bad experience of care; their low rating was related to having suffered from medical complications.

Conclusion

It is challenging that the main finding is that women are exposed to disrespectful care. In efforts to provide a quality and equitable maternal health care system in Rwanda, there is need to focus on activities to implement respectful, evidence-based care for all. One such activity is to develop and provide education programmes for midwives and nurses about professional behaviour when caring for

and working with women during labour and birth.

Purpose:

The aim of the study is to explore the meaning of a bad childbirth as experienced by women who had given birth in Rwanda.

Language

[English](#)

Unit of analysis

[Individual](#)

Time Method

[Other](#)

Sampling procedure

In a cross-sectional household study conducted in Northern Province and in Kigali City, the capital of Rwanda, a structured questionnaire was answered by women who had given birth 1 to 13 months earlier. One question answered by 898 women asked them to rate their overall experience of childbirth from 0 (very bad) to 10 (very good). Of these, 28 women (3.1%) rating the childbirth experience as bad (< 4) were contacted for individual interviews. Seventeen of these women accepted to participate in individual in-depth interviews

Time period(s) investigated

2014-01-05 - 2015-02-28

Data format / data structure

[Text](#)

Data collection 1

- Mode of collection: Interview
- Time period(s) for data collection: 2015-01-05 - 2015-02-28
- Source of the data: Population group

Geographic spread

Geographic location: [Rwanda](#)

Geographic description: Kigali City and Northern Province

Responsible department/unit

Institute of Medicine

Contributor(s)

Judith Mukamurigo - University of Gothenburg

Research area

[Medical and health sciences](#) (Standard för svensk indelning av forskningsämnen 2011)

Keywords

[Childbirth](#)

Accessibility level

Access to data through SND
Data are freely accessible

Use of data

[Things to consider when using data shared through SND](#)

Versions

Version 1.0. 2017-06-19

Contact for questions about the data

Judith Mukamurigo

judith.mukamurigo@gmail.com

Download metadata

[DataCite](#)

[DDI 2.5](#)

[DDI 3.3](#)

[DCAT-AP-SE 2.0](#)

[JSON-LD](#)

[PDF](#)

[Citation \(CLS\)](#)

[File overview \(CSV\)](#)

Published: 2017-06-19

Last updated: 2020-01-27