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NOTE PREVIEW ARTICLE

WOMEN UNDER IMPRISONMENT AND THE EXPERIENCE OF MOTHERHOOD

A MULHER EM SITUAÇÃO DE PRISÃO E A VIVÊNCIA DA MATERNIDADE

LA MUJER EN SITUACIÓN DE PRISIÓN Y LA EXPERIENCIA DE LA MATERNIDAD

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ABSTRACT

Objective: understand how women under imprisonment experience motherhood during incarceration.

Method: descriptive study with qualitative approach and with the theoretical-methodological framework of Social Phenomenology. Recorded interview will be the technique used for production of data. This will be subsequently submitted to phenomenological analysis and will be categorized based on the convergence of responses. The subjects will be women who are in the Female Prison Santa Luzia (FPSL) in Maceió/AL and who were pregnant and went through childbirth while imprisoned from 2011 to 2014 and that remain under detention. Women who were pregnant and have undergone abortion, as well as women who are still pregnant and women that have any cognitive or behavioral diagnosed deficit will be excluded from the study. **Expected results:** understand how women under imprisonment in the FPSL experienced motherhood during this period according to their accounts. **Descriptors:** Women's Health; Nursing; Social Vulnerability; Mother-Child Relations; Prisons.

RESUMO

Objetivo: compreender como as mulheres em situação de prisão vivenciam a maternidade durante a reclusão.

Método: estudo descritivo, com abordagem qualitativa, tendo como referencial teórico-metodológico a Fenomenologia Social. A produção de dados se dará com o emprego da técnica da entrevista gravada e estes serão submetidos à análise fenomenológica e categorizados a partir da convergência de respostas. Os sujeitos serão mulheres que se encontrem no Estabelecimento Prisional Feminino Santa Luzia (EPFSL) em Maceió/AL, que estiveram gestantes e passaram pelo parto e puerpério no presídio no período de 2011 a 2014 e continuam detidas. Serão excluídas aquelas que gestaram e sofreram abortamento, as que ainda estão gestantes e as mulheres que apresentem qualquer déficit cognitivo ou comportamental diagnosticado. **Resultados esperados:** a partir de seus relatos, compreender como as mulheres em reclusão no EPFSL vivenciaram a maternidade nesse período. **Descritores:** Saúde da Mulher; Enfermagem; Vulnerabilidade Social; Relações Mãe-Filho; Prisões.

RESUMEN

Objetivo: comprender cómo las mujeres en situación de prisión viven la maternidad durante la reclusión.

Método: estudio descriptivo, con enfoque cualitativo, teniendo como referencial teórico-metodológico la Fenomenología Social. La producción de datos se dará con el empleo de la técnica de la entrevista grabada y estos serán sometidos al análisis fenomenológico y categorizados a partir de la convergencia de respuestas. Los sujetos serán mujeres que se encuentran en el Establecimiento de Presión Feminino Santa Luzia (EPFSL) en Maceió/AL, que estuvieran gestantes y pasaran por el parto y puerperio en el presidio en el período de 2011 a 2014 y continúan detenidas. Serán excluidas aquellas que gestaron y sufrieron aborto, las que todavía están gestantes y las mujeres que presenten cualquier déficit cognitivo o de comportamiento diagnosticado. **Resultados esperados:** a partir de sus relatos, comprender cómo las mujeres en reclusión en EPFSL viven la maternidad en ese período. **Descriptores:** Salud de la Mujer; Enfermería; Vulnerabilidad Social; Relaciones Madre-Hijo; Prisiones.

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INTRODUCTION

The first signs of female crime in the world appeared around the eleventh century.¹ As regards the start point of criminality among women in Brazil, the relationships of behavior outside the patterns of current society stand out. The arrests of this period were attempts of purification and forgiveness of these women.² Also according to the author, after several reformatations and critics, prisons now must have a profile of re-socialization of the inmates.

Over the years, female prisons passed through changes and women earned the same rights as the arrested man, as for example, the right for conjugal visits, without making distinction between social class, race or sexual orientation, and women now deserve to have their rights respected by all.³ Thus, the prison does not exempt women from going through all the phases of the reproductive cycle, including pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding.

The experience of gestate, give birth and care of a child may give a woman a new dimension of life and contribute to her emotional and personal growth. Changes in comprehensions related to motherhood and the consequent social experiences of that moment do not reach all women, countries and cultures in the same way, even with the model of maternity designed by the contemporary Western societies.⁴

Such modifications are not only focused on the physical but also in the emotional aspect, where there are expectations focused on the construction of the mother-child binomial and the future of this relationship. The mother brings a whole identity of sociocultural relationships cultivated in her family environment, combined with the influence of the environment where she lives, able to shape the maternity relationships.⁴

The female population under imprisonment is predominantly made up of young adults⁵ in reproductive age and it has been further shown that confinement has brought negative effects for women with regard to the context of family idealization and future prospects.⁶

Understanding how women under imprisonment experience motherhood can allow minimize certain issues, such as negligence that is typical of this condition, with respect for example to emotional support, completion of the prenatal tests, the right to breastfeeding, conviviality, among others. In addition, it may also result in intervention by the health professionals that

care for this group, thus enabling resolute actions and with the potential to humanize this assistance.

Based on the above mentioned, this study aims to:

- Understand how women under imprisonment experience motherhood during incarceration;
- Identify what the period in prison gave them in terms of experiences, as well as possible gaps left by the system for ensuring safe motherhood.

METHOD

Descriptive study with qualitative approach designed to glimpse into the understanding of the perspectives and meanings of motherhood while under imprisonment, based on social phenomenology. This framework is an alternative of research that contributes to an effective look at the experiences related to the human health-disease process, and especially the ones lived in different assistance and health care settings.^{7,8}

This investigative approach, with comprehensive nature, has been used in research in the field of Nursing. It is noteworthy that, as an area of knowledge and professional practice, Nursing is primarily comprised of the relationship between human beings whose comprehension is an important health care flag.⁹

The place intended to carry out the study is the Female Prison Santa Luzia (FPSL) located in Maceió, Alagoas. The request for accessing the facility will be made to the Board of Prison Units in the General Superintendence of Penitentiary Administration (GSPA) along with the presentation of the purpose of the study. The FPSL is the only unit in the state that houses women.

The technique of interview will be used for data collection with the intention of obtaining verbal information from the surveyed participants about the experience of maternity while in prison based in three triggering questions: In your opinion, how was to find out you were pregnant while being in prison? Report your expectations related to the birth of your baby. How was having to be separated from the baby?

Women will be approached through workshops and meetings that will be scheduled in advance. Interviews will be conducted at the site chosen by the women, in the unit and respecting the days assigned for visits. Interviews will be recorded and transcribed afterwards, and after analysis, these will be destroyed, assuring to

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participants the safety and reliability of data, protecting all legal requirements. Data will be submitted to phenomenological analysis and categorized based on the convergence of responses.

Women in situation of seclusion who were pregnant in the period of 2011-2014 will be invited to participate in the study. Women who were pregnant and have undergone abortion, as well as those who are still pregnant and women that have any cognitive or behavioral diagnosed deficit will be excluded from the study.

The research project has been submitted to the Research Ethics Committee (REC) of the Federal University of Alagoas/UFAL through the Brazil Platform for evaluation. The project was approved under General Certificate for Ethic Evaluation - CAAE nº 39342814.8.0000.5013. The women who agree to participate in the study will sign the Informed Consent (IC), pursuant to Resolution nº 466/12 of the National Health Council. Women will be assured that, even having signed the IC form, they will be free to give up participating at any moment of the study.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Considering the importance of safe motherhood to build the mother-child binomial and, based on the reading and reflection on researches on the subject held in other states and countries, a compelling need to better understand how women under imprisonment experience motherhood becomes evident. These readings allowed the observation that the experience of motherhood while in prison brought negative aspects for the studied women.

It is expected that this study aid to know how women in seclusion in the Female Prison Santa Luzia (FPSL) experience motherhood, in the light of local conditions, and seeking to contextualize this with the Brazilian reality.

The expected impacts relate to conduct not only health professionals who deal with this issue in their day-to-day, but also managers, at all levels of government that are involved in providing assistance to women for the construction of a new look and a new *modus operandi* in the provision of care for mothers in situation of imprisonment and, hence, the improvement of care and the rates found in such condition.

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