Surrogacy Commissioning Mothers’ Perceptions about Available Social Support Resources

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Context: Access to supportive resources is one of the important factors affecting maternal role. According to previous studies, surrogacy commissioning mothers have unique needs because they face more challenges than other mothers. Few studies have examined the experiences of these women and how they access support resources.

Objective: This study has explored surrogacy commissioning mothers' perceptions about their support resources in the process of becoming a mother.

Method: This research was conducted with a qualitative approach from August 2010 to June 2012. The data were collected using unstructured interviews with participants that were selected by purposeful sampling. A total of 32 interviews were performed with 15 commissioning mothers and five staff from an infertility center. The study setting was Royan Research Center in Tehran. Data were analyzed using conventional content analysis method.

Patient(s): Gestational surrogacy commissioning mothers

Intervention(s): non

Main Outcome Measure(s)/ Result(s): During content analysis, two main themes emerged that indicate the nature of commissioning mothers' perception about their support resources in the process of becoming a mother: 1. Support insufficiency comprising two subthemes of "inadequacy of organizational services", and "lack of adequate support from significant others". 2. Having the fulcrum comprising of two subthemes of "benefit from the support of a reliable person" and "support of infertility centers in facilitating motherhood".

Conclusion: The findings showed despite the limited resources available to support mothers in the family and community, mothers ignore this supportive resources consciously and look for someone reliable and trustworthy to help them. Awareness of mothers' needs can help healthcare managers and planners to care plan, especially in infertility centers in future.