



Extramarital Relationships: Middle-class Female Meaning Formation in Tehran, Iran in 2019

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Statement of the research question

Extramarital relationship per se' is a formation of meaning being at odds with historical forces. This paper seeks to find how extramarital relationships are perceived by the middle-class women in Tehran.

Theory

In this paper, we attempt to understand the perception of the middle-class women of their extramarital relationships revolving around the concept of Giddens 's pure relationship and fluid love from Baumann. However, these concepts can only clarify the issue of research at a micro level; therefore, we utilized Foucault's idea into the bargain about history of sexuality so as to understand the issue at discourse level.

Methods

The present study is a qualitative study making use of in-depth interviews conducted in 2019 led by a purposive sampling method with 21 women living in the middle-class families in Tehran, from among those who have been married for at least five years and are under 45 years of age. To cover the middle class concept, three indicators of household head, family income, and

women's education were taken into account. Qualitative content analysis was exploited in order to analyze the interviews. Interviews were first implemented and then transcribed into Max QDA software. Data analysis was performed using the Mayring 's model.

Findings

The findings revealed that the extramarital relations among participants in the research can be categorized as "having a right to have pleasure from body", "pure sexual relationship", "revenge against the spouse", "a means to maintain marital life," "getting used to having a diverse relationship" And "changing the meaning of commitment and loyalty".

Results

Regarding the categories of findings, it can be concluded that the formation of sexuality in Iran is changing, and the phenomenon of extramarital relationships among the participants in this research is a new meaning formed in conflict with modern forces.

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