

Spinsters' Moral Experience of Celibacy in Social Encounter: A Qualitative Study

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Abstracts

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Credible reports show that the number of spinsters has increasingly grown up in the last two decades in Iran. Ecological and cultural conditions indicate that these spinsters are seen differently and judged unfairly as opposed to married women in normative and ethical situations. Thus, this study aims to answer how these spinsters understand their own moral experience of celibacy in their social encounter with others. A qualitative content-analysis method is used in this research. The data was collected through semi-structured interviews with 20 unmarried girls aged between 40 and 50 who work and live in Isfahan. They were selected by the purposive sampling method. After the interviews are organized and the data is coded, their moral experience in social encounters is classified under six organizing themes and three overarching categories: “sex commodity”, “unstable moral identity”, and “inferior social status”.

Keywords

Moral experience, spinsters, celibacy, social encounter, qualitative study.

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