

Abstract

The aim of the study was to determine the psychosocial repercussions of vitiligo on women. Purposive sampling was done to collect the data and the sample size was consisted of 11 vitiligo women patients (5 married and 6 unmarried). These patients age ranged from 18-60 years and had at least 3 years of history of vitiligo. Data was collected using in-depth interviews. Study was carried out in two phases: Initially mental health screening questionnaire was conducted to screen the patients and later main interview protocol was administered on the participants. The data was recorded and interviews were transcribed. The data was analyzed using Interpretative phenomenological analysis and various categories of themes emerged from the data. The superordinate themes that emerged were; perception of illness, social reaction and experiences, psychological dimensions and coping strategies. There were multidimensional factors revolving around perception of disease such as causation, treatment and cure, discomfort with the skin, self-pity and hope to heal. The common social reactions towards these people included question evasion, lack of acceptance, and avoidance. This discrimination leads to psychological responses such as emotional disturbances, fear of being rejected, and self-esteem issues. The major coping strategies include camouflage, avoidance, and religious practices. The unique themes that emerged from the study were face sensitivity and positive effect of education. This research will be first of its type to distinguish between the experiences of married and unmarried women with vitiligo thus providing a broaden vision to inquiry.

Keywords: psychosocial, repercussions, vitiligo, women.