LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Religious Coping in Bereaved Grandparents after a Grandchild Death

HÜSEYIN ÇAKSEN
Divisions of Pediatric Neurology and Genetics and Behavioral-Developmental Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics, Necmettin Erbakan University, Meram Medical Faculty, Meram, Konya, Türkiye
Correspondence: Prof. HÜSEYIN ÇAKSEN, MD, PhD, E-mail: huseyincaksen@hotmail.com, Tel. Telephone: +90 332 223 66 84
Facsimile: +90 332 223 61 81 and +90 332 223 61 82

Dear Editor,

The death of a child is a traumatic family life event. Although parental bereavement has received substantial attention, little research has focused on the grief experiences of bereaved grandparents. Pediatric palliative care focuses mainly on the children suffering from a life-limiting disease, but always includes parents and siblings. However, grandparents are also often highly involved in caring for the child and require additional attention.

Herein, we present religious coping in bereaved grandparents who lost their grandchildren to attract the attention of health professionals to bereaved grandparents.

Grandparents who lose a grandchild experience increased alcohol and drug use, thoughts of suicide, and pain for their adult child who is also grieving. Tourjeman et al. examined the ways grandparents experience about the loss of a grandchild. They found three main themes: the loss as a personal turning point; the significance of the ongoing relationships with the deceased; and the impact on one’s beliefs and attitudes. Several factors were perceived by the bereaved grandparents as being either helpful or unhelpful in easing the pain of their grief. Among these were acknowledged of the deceased grandchild and the grandparents themselves, the relationship with the bereaved son or daughter, family dynamics, and support mechanisms. In our practice, we have observed that all grandparents were psychosocially affected after a grandchild death. However, many grandparents with belief in the hereafter lived less psychosocial problems because they know that their small dead grandchildren are continued to live in Paradise. They have also found spiritual peace and comfort with the following religious teachings about belief in the hereafter: It is only through the life of the hereafter that the elderly, who form half of mankind, can endure the proximity of the grave, and be consolled at the thought that their lives, to which they are firmly attached, will soon be extinguished and their fine wo consoled at the thought that their lives, to which they are firmly attached, will soon be extinguished and their fine wo consoled at the thought that their lives, to which they are firmly attached, will soon be extinguished and their fine wo

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that religious coping and belief in the hereafter were important for bereaved grandparents due to death of a grandchild; therefore, we think that bereaved grandparents should be spiritually supported by health caregivers.

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