

Abstract

In literature, transmission of trauma is often studied but studies on intergenerational transmission of the trauma of 1915 among Armenian community are limited, and there are scarcely any qualitative studies on experiences of Armenians of Turkey. This study explored the intergenerational transmission of trauma, the impact of trauma on parenting and relationships, and being an Armenian on five Armenian families living in Istanbul, Turkey. Each family consisted of three generations of women: grandmothers who are the children of 1915 survivors, their daughters and granddaughters. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with five middle class families. Then, data was analyzed by using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis. The data analysis of the interviews revealed four themes: Being an Armenian in Turkey, Protecting the next generation, Relations with Turks, Feelings regarding 1915.

Findings were discussed in terms of similarities and differences to existing literature. Clinical implications of being an Armenian in Turkey, the intergenerational impact of the trauma and its effects on parenting were proposed. Finally, limitations of this study and recommendations for future research were discussed.