

Out of concern for motherhood

Summary

This publication presents intriguing aspects of maternity, with the emphasis on its values, especially when maternity occurs in a difficult life situation for the mother, the child, the mother and child, or mother, child and others. The choice of this subject matter was not accidental. In deciding to focus on the difficulties involved in the maternal role, which take many forms, depending on complex circumstances, the aim was to show the unique nature of this role, as well as the multitude of perspectives, dimensions and aspects that form the mosaic of issues related to motherhood. The texts invite the reader to examine different experiences of motherhood, which are always related to suffering to a lesser or greater extent. This publication provides an opportunity to observe the problems experienced by women and mothers from different categories.

The range of issues discussed by the authors is extremely interesting. Eleonora Bielawska-Batorowicz looks at the issue of unfulfilled motherhood (and parenthood) resulting from infertility. Monika Frąckowiak-Sochańska discusses what she terms “uncompleted maternity” (which ends in miscarriage). The prelude to further discussions is Dorota Kornas-Biela’s article, which reflects on the beginnings of maternity, to which she applies the term “prenatal maternity”. Ewa Włodarczyk’s text emphasises the turning point represented by the birth of a child, the stress generated by the experience of motherhood, and also the contrast between the idyllic impression given to maternity and the realities of motherhood that are far from idyllic. Karolina Kuryś-Szyncel focuses on issues related to the many unknowns in the experience of giving birth (not only to the first child). Hanna Kubiak’s article is on the unique topic of parents raising children (adolescents) with mental disorders, while the difficulties experienced by mothers with disabled children is analysed by Ewelina Sowa and Ewa Włodarczyk. The experience of motherhood modified by economic migration is the subject of Katarzyna Bogucka’s work. In the next article, Dorota Zaworska-Nikoniuk discusses surrogate motherhood (often called surrogacy). Marta Dziarnowska describes with the issue of homosexual mothers, which is treated ambiguously by society. Agnieszka Skowrońska-Pućka, on the other hand, concentrates on the experiences of underage mothers in institutional care, while Hanna Karaszewska

deals with the problems of girls in young offender's institutions who are expecting a child or who gave birth. The question of maternity in prison is the subject of Agata Matysiak-Błaszczyk's contribution. The publication closes with Danuta Krzysztofiak and Astrid Tokaj's text on older mothers, who are entering a phase of life when maternal functions gradually diminish.

This publication is intended for a wide range of readers. The issues it deals with might be of interest to educationalists, sociologists and psychologists. It will certainly help those engaged in social services, social welfare institutions, non-governmental organisations and policy-makers broaden their understanding of different categories of mothers. Its readers might also include men and women who are potentially or currently performing the role of parent.

Translated by Rob Pagett