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Personal and Interpersonal Dimensions of Childlessness in Three Different Ecological Settings

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ABSTRACT The present research is an attempt to study the personal and interpersonal dimensions of childlessness in three different ecological settings (Urban, Rural and Tribal) of Jammu (J&K)). The sample of the study consisted of 50 childless couples each from three ecological settings, total 150 couples formed the core group for the study. Snowball sampling technique was used for sample selection. The tools used for the study were, Interview guide and Informal observation. Results of the study reveal that children were considered important by respondents of all the three settings for socio-emotional reasons i.e. they are important for survival of lineage and they also fulfill the emotional needs of the parents.. Striking emotional feelings reported by respondents were depression, anxiety, irritability, helplessness, anger, guilt, grief, tragedy, isolation, mental instability etc. Most of the female respondents especially in case of rural and tribal settings reported a change in the attitude of their husbands after diagnosis of problem of infertility. The change was more in negative direction. Some of the respondents

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