Lived Experiences of Commercial Sex Women Worker Rape Survivors: Relationships, Struggles and Coping Strategies

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The researchers intended to investigate the lived experiences and coping strategies of women sex worker who were survivors of rape. Three Filipino women sex workers who are survivors of rape working within the area of Manila. The participants described their experiences, lives and coping strategies regarding their experienced rape incident in accordance to the interview questions. Common themes that surfaced were feelings of dislike and embarrassment, emotional and social hardships after the rape incidents, suicidal thoughts, and feelings of hopelessness regarding ideas of seeking jobs outside of sex work. Respondents also experienced unfair treatment from clients and feelings of rejection from family. After surviving the rape incident along with their own coping strategies, participants reported their current life being better than the past. Coping strategies of the participants mainly included religious practices and social support, either from friends, family, or both.