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**Women's experiences of childbirth in Middle Eastern countries: A narrative review**

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**Introduction**

Birth is one of the most significant events in a woman's life and can impact either positively or negatively on her physical and psychological health. In most, or indeed all cultures, becoming a mother changes a woman's status. At the start of a recent book on Muslim Mothering the editors state that mothers are revered in Muslim societies, they are respected and offered generosity, and kindness, by their children. (Pappano & Olwan, 2016). The phrase, a "paradise lies at the feet of the mother" ...shows the great esteem, honour and respect that Islam has for mothers... (Pappano & Olwan, 2016, p. 1). Yet, this respect and high status is not always afforded to women in Middle-Eastern society during their labour and birth.

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