

## Book review

This book[1] has been written by Rosemary Mander, who has almost 40 years experience of midwifery practice and has published widely on childbearing and midwifery.

This is the second edition of a book originally published by Blackwell Scientific in 1994 and the new edition includes a new chapter on the death of the mother in childbirth. The publication of this book is a reflection of the growing awareness about loss and bereavement in childbirth even though death is still a taboo subject in some Asian countries. The book discusses perinatal and neonatal loss; miscarriage and termination of pregnancy for foetal abnormality; death of a mother in the third world and first world settings and difficulties encountered during future childbearing.

Reading “loss and bereavement in childbearing” opened my eyes to different approaches to understanding the loss of babies. The book was very relevant to my current PhD research in which while I have been working with mothers who suffered loss and subsequent normal pregnancy in Taiwan. In Taiwan, when there is a death of baby; parents are not available to openly grieve for their child. This book advocates that the family are given time and space to grieve. As the author’s believes, we all have our own unique expertise and only the mother knows what her grief is like. The more we accept how the mothers see it, the more help what we can be to them. Grief after the child’s death is a very arduous task for all health professionals to handle and families will be hurt again when the care they receive is deficient or unsuitable. Therefore, based on a widespread range of literature, the book is providing an essential aspect of childbearing with loss and bereavement and is timely and very relevant.

“Loss and Bereavement in childbearing” is a valuable, accessible and easy-to-read book, as it quotes international literature and the common significance of this knowledge. For the health providers to thoroughly understand the needs of the family and their concerns, it would help to provide the efficient care and support to those who experience loss. This book can be recommended to all practitioners and academics working with ethnic and other minority groups in the bereavement field. Indeed, it is hoped that further similar material will be developed in the future.

1. Mander, R., *Loss and bereavement in childbearing* second ed. 2006: Oxford : Blackwell Scientific.

Hui-Lin Sun, PhD student, University of Ulster at Jordanstown, NI, UK. Research title “The journey of motherhood following previous pregnancy loss”