
Abstract

Examination of psychological effects of lectures given by families of victims of crime

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This study examined the mental and physical effects of lectures delivered by families of victims of crime and the families' perceived significance of such lectures. This study also evaluated key considerations for supporting these families and the role of these lectures in their grieving process. A total of six families were interviewed. A grounded theory approach generated 20 high-level categories and model diagrams. The results revealed both positive and negative effects of the lectures on the families' mental health; of note, the families vividly recalled the incidents of violence experienced by their loved ones. Additionally, following up with the families after the lectures and giving meaning to the lecture that does not undermine the self-esteem of the bereaved families was found to effectively provide psychological support. Furthermore, the lectures served three functions: supporting the families who feel a strong connection with the deceased and are profoundly affected by their loss, keeping the memory of the deceased alive within society, and delivering lectures with a purpose while supporting and helping families in their recovery process.

Keywords: crime victim support, bereaved crime victims, lecture, grounded theory approach
