



Working for Health

Childbirth: mothers' experiences

Presenter

Child birth. Different people describing and discussing their experiences around that most commonplace yet extraordinary event - childbirth. You will also be able to hear the interviewees explore some novel approaches that have been taken to improve the experience of childbirth for women. To what extent have they succeeded? What challenges have they thrown up? We begin with "Models of Maternity Care".

Nikki Kennelly

From the outside looking in you would think isn't she lucky she had a very straight forward labour and delivery, no problem. But from the inside they were very different. I anticipated everything would go wrong and in fact I was so delighted that you know it had all gone normally I felt terribly clever afterwards, and you know, and couldn't wait to have another baby really. And then the second one was very, very fast, it was sort of just over two hours from start to finish. Which you know everyone else thinks is great you know, but it was terrible, because it's like all that pain was squashed into a very short length of time.

Monowara Talukdar

Hospital is different place. I never been to hospital before. When you don't know the language you don't know the people and you are not aware of male doctor, male doctor just come and examine you, you have no idea how to object that you don't want male doctor.

Debbie

My midwife was fantastic, she had the radio on, and she said my my shift finishes at seven, and I said please don't go and I had her at eight minutes past seven to 'Oh Cecilia.' The midwife was dancing round the bed singing 'Oh Cecilia' and it was wonderful

Miriam

I wasn't really supported in all the things I wanted to do to try and achieve a none drug birth you know. They just wanted me flat on my back with the monitor strapped to me. The environment was so clinical and they were behaving in such a clinical way so we were completely compromised, what we wanted to do didn't feel right in the end.

Jackie

Here I feel like I'm totally and completely informed about everything. I feel much more confident, confident enough to decide I wanted to have a drug free labour where before I had an epidural without even experiencing many labour pains, just because I had no confidence.