

**“TIME DOES NOT GUARANTEE FORGIVENESS”: AN
INTERPRETATIVE PHENOMENOLOGICAL ANALYSIS STUDY ON
PARTNER FORGIVENESS IN WLHIV**

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ABSTRACT

Forgiveness can be a challenging and prolonged process, especially when the issue involves a partner. This study aims to investigate the experiences of partner forgiveness among women living with HIV (WLHIV). The qualitative method with an Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) approach was used in this study. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews with participants who met specific criteria, including being women living with HIV for at least five years, being diagnosed before or within the first five years of marriage, and registering as PLHIV patients at the Bumiwonorejo Community Health Center. Four participants were selected for the study. The main themes identified were; (1) environmental pressure; (2) the journey of partner forgiveness; and (3) a better life. Domestic violence, partner dishonesty, deviant culture, the roles of children and others, as well as spiritual beliefs and convictions, significantly influence the forgiveness process and decisions made by WLHIV. The influences can either offer support or create obstacles in the journey they choose to pursue. The process of forgiving a partner for WLHIV is an enduring cycle, where tipping points play an important role in this process. The result of this study also found out that time does not guarantee WLHIV can forgive their partners. Regardless of whether they forgive their partners or not, WLHIV feels that their lives are improving after making decisions that bring them a sense of calm and hope. This study could enrich and provide additional literature related to the process of partner forgiveness that WLHIV went through, and also open up the opportunity for the development of related studies.

Keywords: Forgiveness, WLHIV, partners