

## ABSTRACT

Title of the Research : **SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT: ITS EFFECT  
THE SURVIVING FAMILY MEMBERS**  
Author : **MARIA LOURDES R. BELIZARIO**  
Degree : **Master of Arts in Education**  
Major : **Guidance and Counseling**  
Date of Completion : **May 2018**

This research made use of the qualitative case study design to explore and describe the experiences of family members who have lost a loved one through suicide. It is the aim of this research to gain a deeper understanding and insights of the bereavement process of families left behind by a loved one who commits suicide and how they are able to cope with their grief. Specifically, this research sought to study the experiences and psycho-emotional effects of suicide death on the surviving family. In addition, this research aims to look on the coping behaviors of the bereaved and the different rituals and practices the survivors give meaning to.

Five individuals participated in this study: a father, 2 siblings, a wife, and a son. A semi-structured, in-depth interview was used as the main instrument in the gathering of data.

Findings of the study revealed that guilt, stigma and shame are just a few of the emotional reactions that have been found to be common among the participants of the study.

The study concludes that suicide bereavement is made unique due to the presence of above mentioned emotional reactions that are not found among the bereaved of natural causes

