



Defense of the Master's Thesis on the Topic of *Women's Experiences of Mistreatment During Childbirth in Ukraine*

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Relevance

- Recent emergence of the topic.
- Worldwide occurrence.
- Rise of attention to the problem.
- Documented evidence of occurrence in Ukraine.
- Little Ukrainian evidence of scientific nature.

Aim

- To reveal and describe the practice of mistreatment during childbirth in Ukraine from the women's perspective.

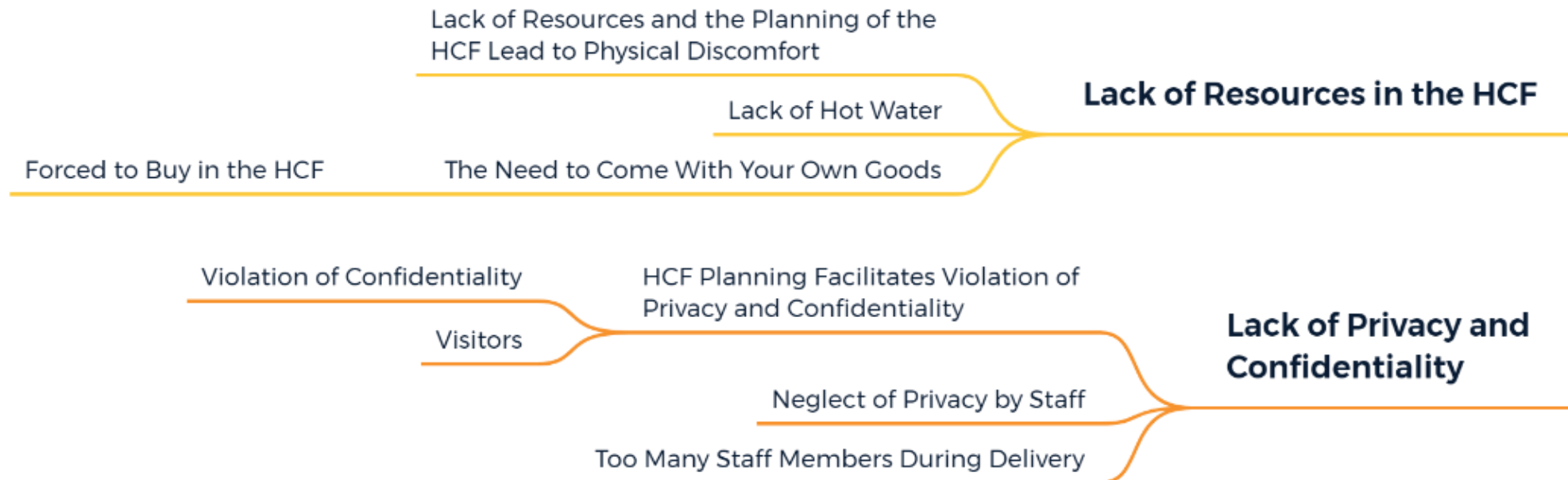
Methods

- Qualitative paradigm.
 - Grounded theory.
- Semi-structured (in-depth) interviews:
 - Seven with expert-respondents.
 - Snowball sampling with the seed respondent being the author of several thematic publications.
 - Thirty-five with women-who-had-childbirth-respondents.
 - Sampling through a Facebook post on the personal page of the researcher shared by the key NGO.
- Qualitative coding.

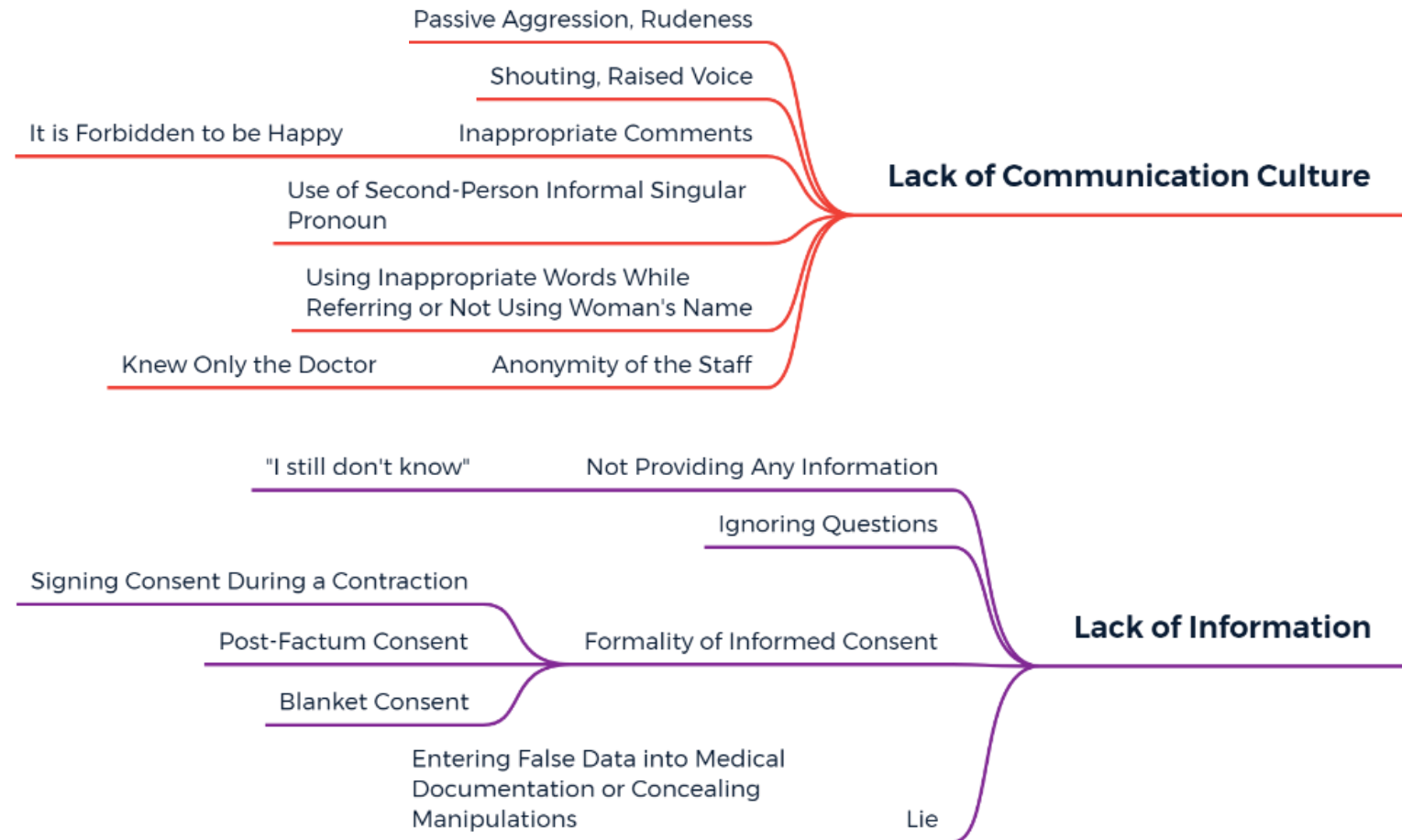
Task 1. To Reveal the Most Relevant to the Study Concepts, Theories, Approaches, and Methods

- Bowser and Hill (2010): physical abuse, non-consented clinical care, non-confidential care, non-dignified care (including verbal abuse), discrimination based on specific patient attributes, abandonment of care, and detention in facilities.
- Freedman et al. (2014): “building blocks” of mistreatment: behaviour that, by local consensus, constitutes disrespect and abuse, subjective experience of a woman, intentionality.
- Bohren et al. (2015): physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, stigma and discrimination, failure to meet professional standards of care, poor rapport between women and providers, and health system conditions and constraints.

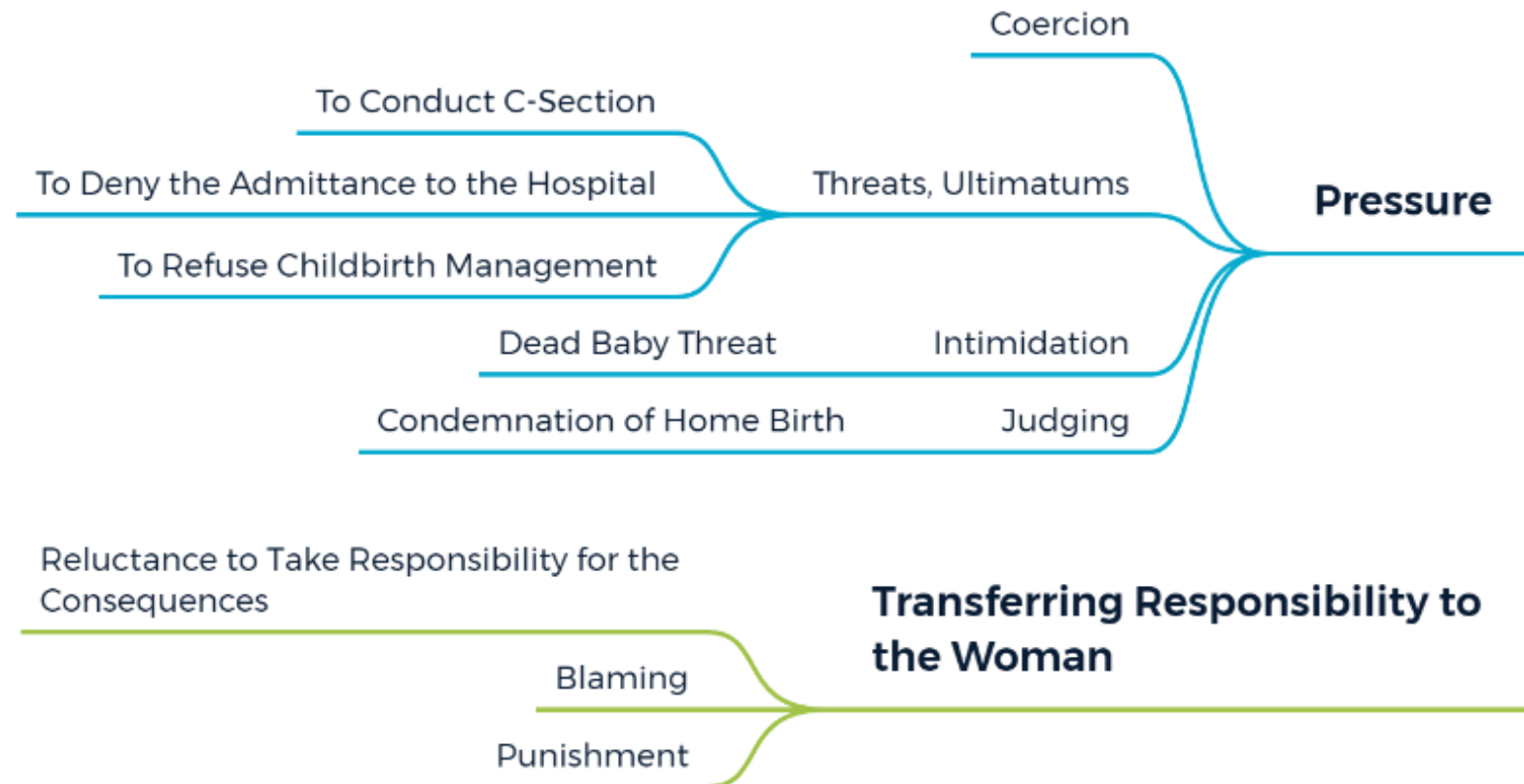
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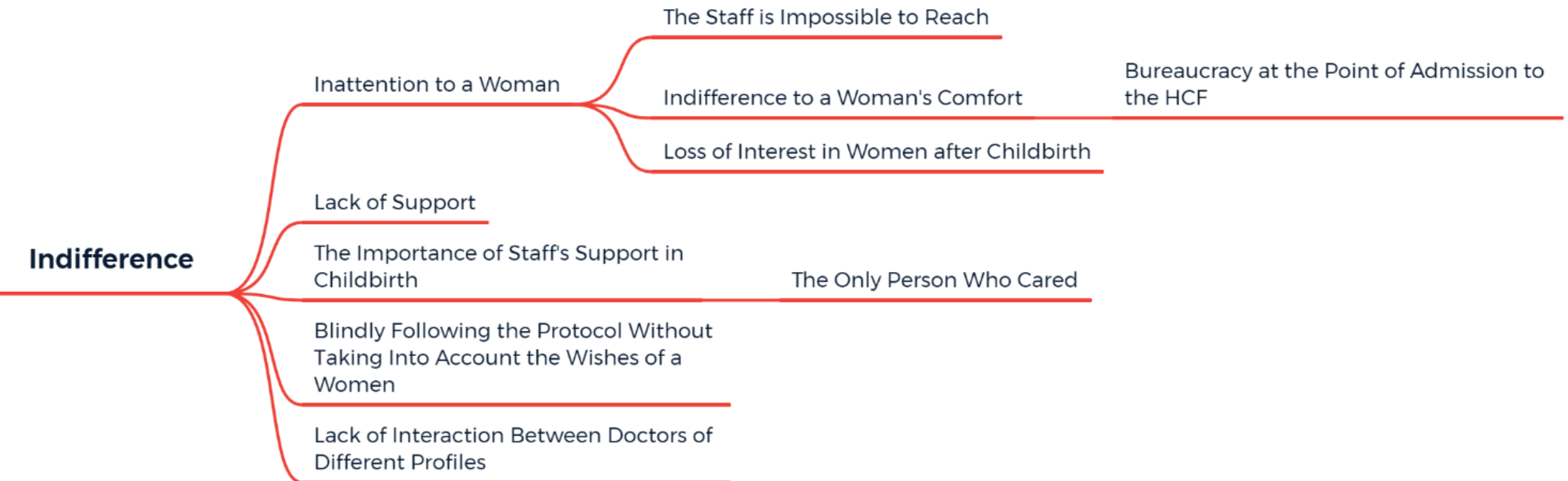
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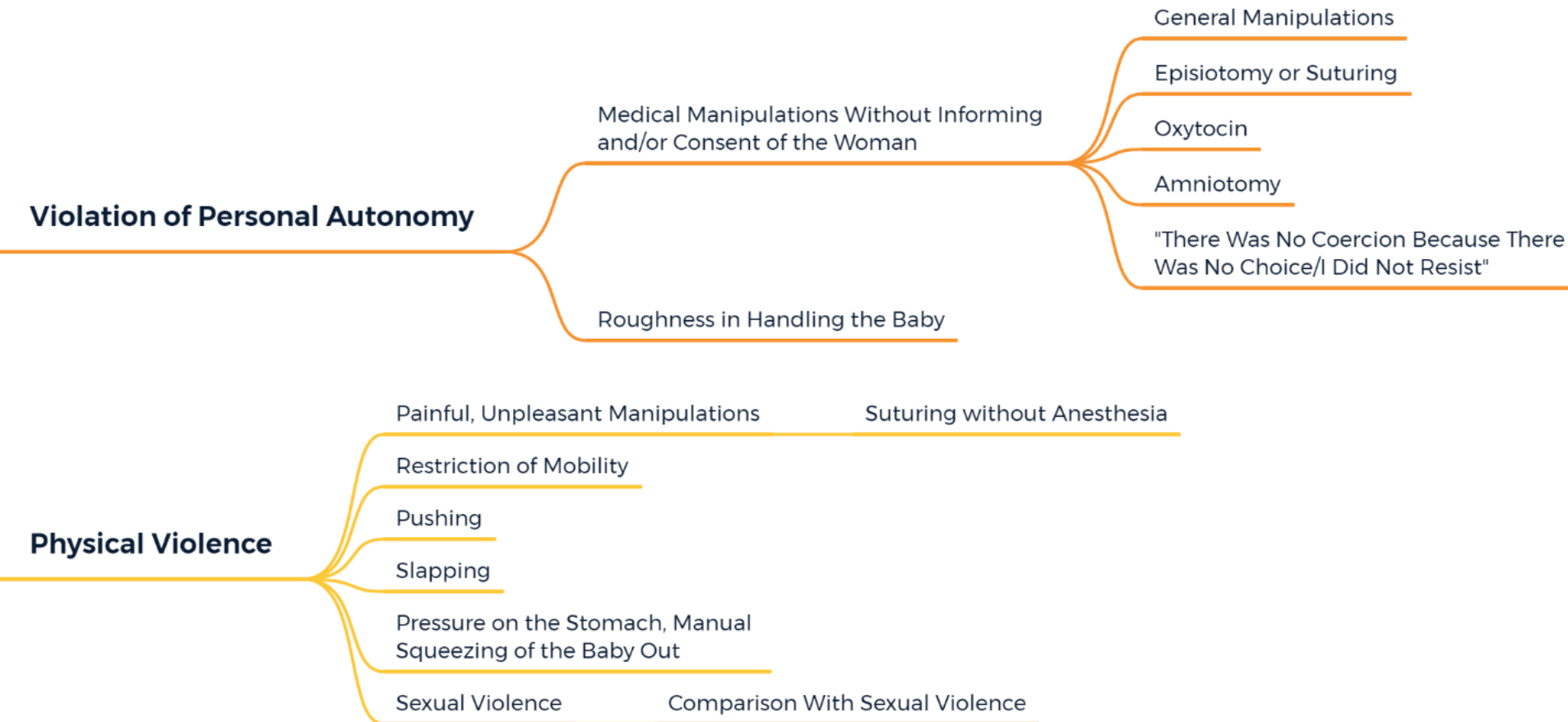
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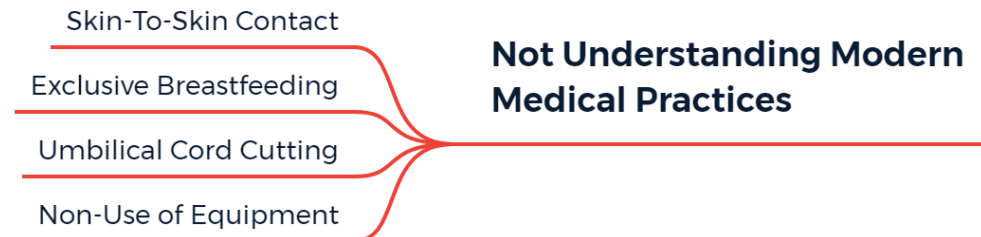
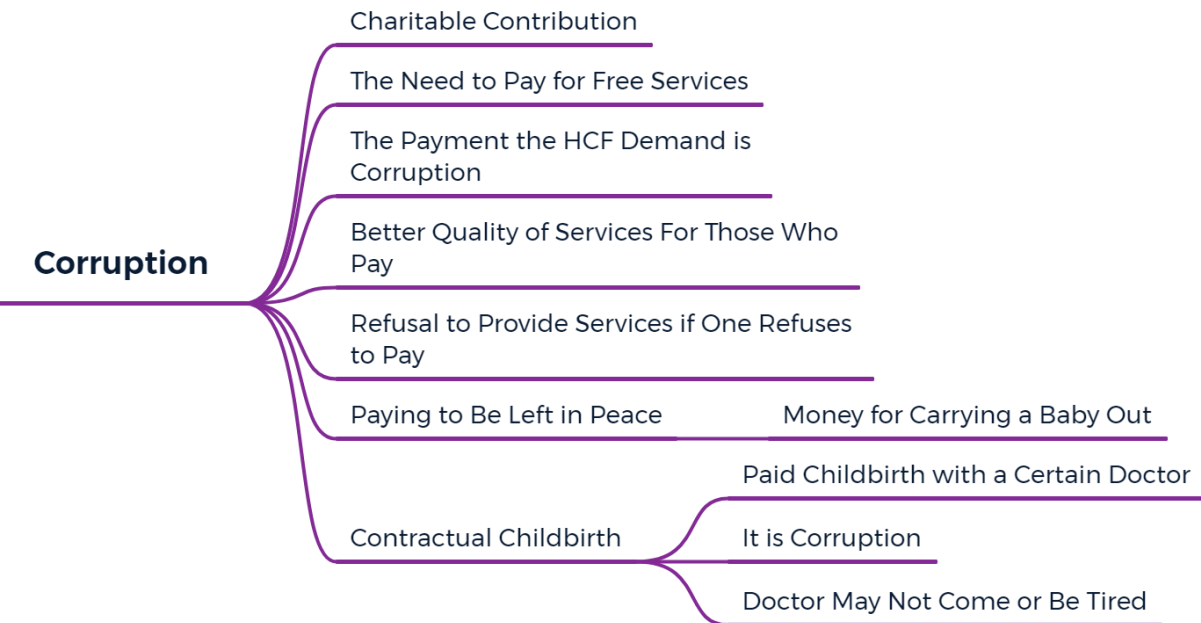
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Prevalence in the General Healthcare System

Normalization of Mistreatment During Childbirth

Contrasting

Comparison With Other Countries

Comparison of State and Private Hospitals

Comparison of Large and Small Cities

Comparison With Past

The Mistreatment Is Very Prevalent

"It Depends on One's Luck"

Women Who Are Told About Mistreatment During Childbirth Are Not Surprised

Task 3. To Describe Reasons of Mistreatment of Women During Childbirth in Ukraine

Personal and Professional Factors

- Professional Deformation
- Burning Out
- The Mechanism of Self-Preservation
- Low Emotional Intelligence
- It Depends on the Individual

Patient Factors

- Women Come Unprepared
- Low Expectations for Childbirth in Women
- Support of Objectification of Oneself
- Helplessness in Childbirth

Power Imbalance

- Information Asymmetry
- Impunity

Soviet Heritage

- Patients are Not Clients
- Free State Healthcare
- Hospital Bed System
- Healthcare System Overload
- Low Wages of Medical Staff
- Hard Work
- Corruption

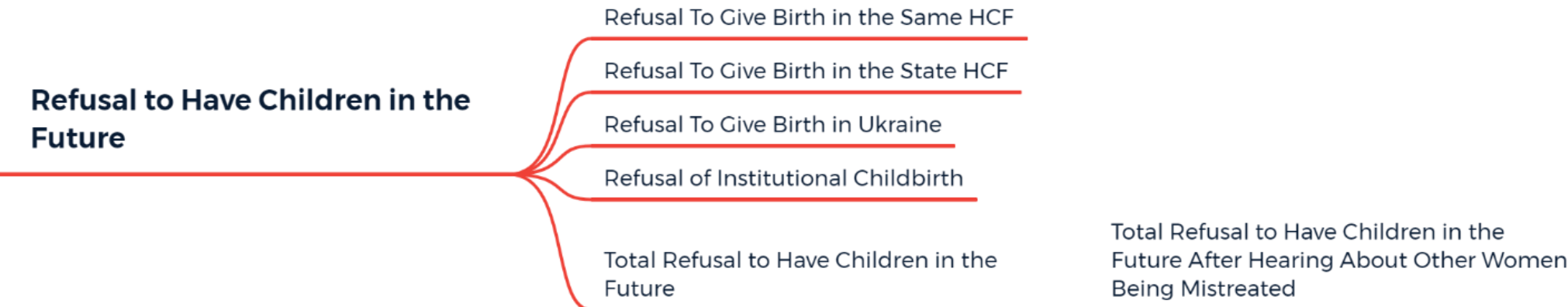
Education

- The Staff Adopts the Existing Culture
- Ignorance of Staff
- Outdatedness of Staff's Knowledge
- Unwillingness of the Staff to Learn Something New

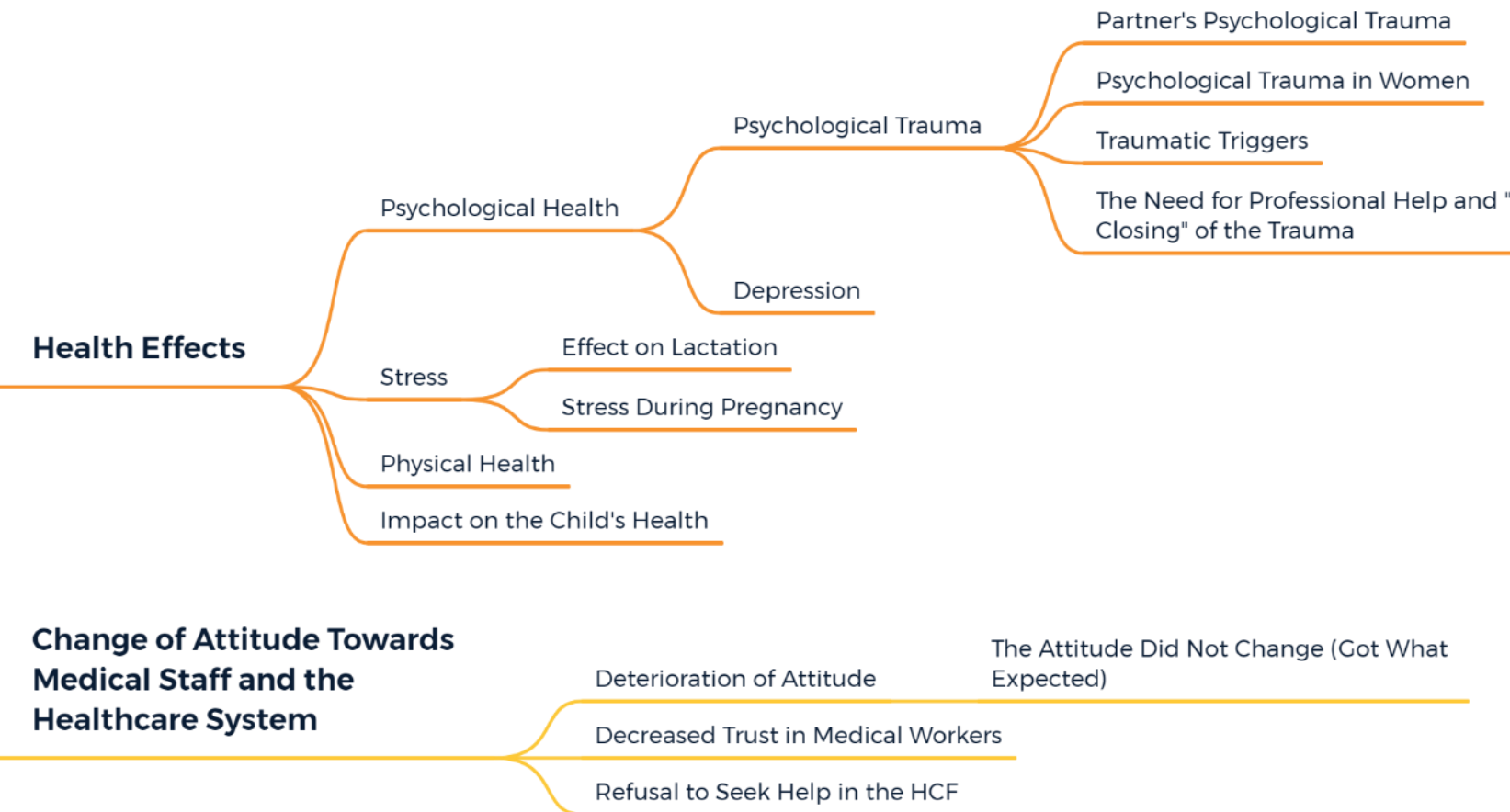
Bureaucratization

- Mechanical Execution of the Protocol
- Childbirth Routinization
- Medicalization of Childbirth
- Statistics

Task 4. To Describe the Perceived Outcomes and Perceived Effects of Mistreatment During Childbirth in Ukraine



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Change Takes Time

Situational Solutions

- Contractual Childbirth
- Partnered Childbirth
 - Childbirth With A Close One
 - Childbirth With A Doula

Education

- Preparation for Childbirth
 - Self-Education
 - Visit The Maternity Hospital Where One Plans To Give Birth
 - Preparatory Courses
 - Educational Materials for Women
- Education of Doctors
 - Personnel Training
 - Exchange of Experience
 - Reform of Medical Education

Control

- Supervision
- Publicity

Maternity Care Reform

- Changing the Principle of Maternity Services Funding
- Increase of the Salaries of Medical Workers
- Psychological Support of Medical Staff
- Change of Maternity Services Model
 - Alternative Forms of Childbirth
 - Home Births

Solutions to Mistreatment During Childbirth

Limitations of the Research

- Recruiting mainly through the Internet-based community of followers of *Natural Right Ukraine* NGO.
 - Risk of respondents being more critical in regards to mistreatment identification due to being aware of the protocols and mistreatment practices.
 - Risk of respondents being affiliated with the NGO for the reason of being mistreated.
 - Risk of extreme cases being collected.
- No data on the prevalence of the phenomenon.
- Socially homogenous sample.
- Sensitivity of the topic.
- Childfree position of the researcher.

Conclusions

- The current study supports the previous evidence of the problem of mistreatment during childbirth being relevant for Ukraine.
- There is an urgent need to reform the system of maternity services in Ukraine beyond the current transformation of healthcare system funding.
- The current study provides foundation for future studies of mistreatment during childbirth in Ukraine, including the quantitative ones.