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Unwanted pregnancy – A fact of life

Abortion Services in Pakistan – A Confiscated Right



Aim of Study

The aim of study is to highlight the various factors which control women's right of having access to Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) services.



Research Methodology

Study Procedure

- Data from 400 women
 - Descriptive Analysis
 - SPSS

Research Setting

• 6 SDPs; 3 in Lahore, 3 in Karachi -Urban to Peri-urban

Research Design

• Structured close-ended questionnaire

METHODOLOGY

Time Horizon

• Longitudinal

Unit of Analysis

• Individuals

Sample Size

• 400 women; 200 abortion clients, 200 non-abortion clients, Sampling Technique

Convenient Sampling (time bound)



Findings

Demographics of TOP Clients

- Monthly Family Income less than 10,000 PKR (107 USD) – 59.8%
- Average age of TOP clients 30 Years
- Average number of children 3
 Children
- Illiterate TOP clients **39.5%**
- Clients with 16 years of education 5 %



Findings

Variables

TOP Clients

General Clients *

Knowledge about legal status of TOP

Stigma with TOP service by not telling friend and family members

36% considered TOP illegal

54% clients associate stigma with TOP service

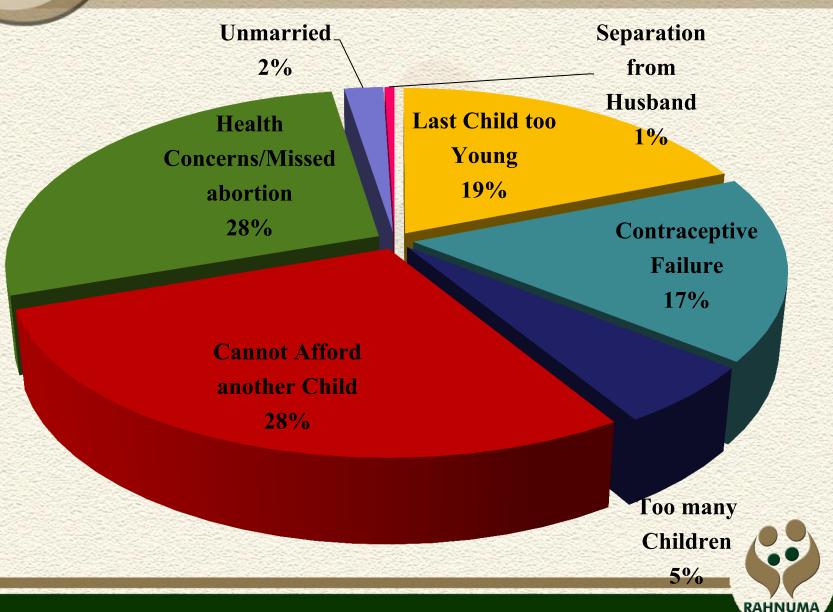
62% considered TOP illegal

53% clients associate stigma with TOP service

* General clients are those clients who have never availed TOP service.



Findings – Reasons for Seeking TOP Service



Findings: Culture & Choice

Reasons for Seeking TOP Service Punjab – "Lahore"

- Cannot afford another child – 26%
- Mother's health concern
 46%
- Last child too young 9%
- Contraceptive failure –
 13%
- Too many children 5%
- Unmarried 0%
- Separation from husband- 1%

Reasons for Seeking TOP Service Sindh – "Karachi"

- Cannot afford another child – 31%
- Mother's health concern
 10%
- Last child too young –
 28%
- Contraceptive failure –
 21%
- Too many children 6%
- Unmarried 4%
- Separation from husband

Committed to Changing Lives

Findings

Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights

- Clients not asked about their wish of having children – 47.2%
- Clients not involved in decision of birth spacing – 48.2%
- Unmet need of family planning by availing abortion service more than once – 18 %



Conclusion

• Controlled access to family planning services, stigma attached to TOP and low educational and economic status are the factors which interfere with the right of women to seek TOP service.

• Moreover, there is a also a need to further study the phenomenon and better understand how each of the factors (stigma, low education etc) affects access to safe TOP service.

Research Prospective

Need to know;

- •How does Choice and Culture relate to acquiring safe abortion services?
- •How to increase access to safe abortion services by working with factors of associated stigma and low education and economic status
- •Drilling down the reason for seeking abortion service by looking at the ground level factors





