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Unwanted pregnancy – A fact of life

Abortion Services in Pakistan – A Confiscated Right
The aim of study is to highlight the various factors which control women’s right of having access to Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) services.
METHODOLOGY

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

Research Design
- Structured close-ended questionnaire

Unit of Analysis
- Individuals

Sample Size
- 400 women; 200 abortion clients, 200 non-abortion clients

Sampling Technique
- Convenient Sampling (time bound)

Time Horizon
- Longitudinal

Study Procedure
- Data from 400 women
  - Descriptive Analysis
  - SPSS

Committed to Changing LIVES
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
- Knowledge about legal status of TOP
- Stigma with TOP service by not telling friend and family members

TOP Clients
- 36% considered TOP illegal
- 54% clients associate stigma with TOP service

General Clients *
- 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

- Last Child too Young: 19%
- Too many Children: 5%
- Cannot Afford another Child: 28%
- Unmarried: 2%
- Separation from Husband: 1%
- Health Concerns/Missed abortion: 28%
- Contraceptive Failure: 17%
# 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 – **0%**
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.
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