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Motives for Abortion

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Background: In Israel, 4 criteria allow for legal abortion: women's age <17 or >40, fetal malformation, danger to the woman's health and unmarried woman or caused by rape.

Objective: To understand why women seek abortion, so as to build appropriate prevention/intervention programs.

Materials & Methods: It is a cross-sectional study conducted on 102 women who applied to the Committee for termination of pregnancy at Galilee Medical Center, January-December 2013. Research instruments include a questionnaire examining violence experienced by the woman, use of contraceptives, and motives for abortion.

Findings: The mean age of the women was 28.75 ± 7.25 years. Reasons for seeking abortion were poor economic situation 53.7%, violence in the home 13.7%. 91.7% reported a poverty-level monthly income of '0' (no income at all). 42.6% of women who experienced violence in the home had previous abortions, as opposed to 36.8% who did not experience violence. 57.1% did not use contraceptives regularly. 21.5% cited the prohibitive cost of contraceptives. 18% of participants noted the importance of their attending nurse's presence at the Committee for termination of pregnancy.

Conclusions: The major reasons for abortion, poor economic situation and violence in the home, are not included in the legal criteria for abortion. There is a need to re-think public policy on cost of contraceptives and to educate the public on contraceptive use. Violence in the family is more likely to be identified if a nurse is present at the Committee for termination of pregnancy. Also, a nurse should advise on the purchase of contraceptives and instruct on their use.

Biography

My name is Maysoon, married with 4 children. I was born in Nazareth city in Galilee- Israel. Graduated in 1991 (BA, RN) and specialized in emergency nursing. I work in Galilee medical center for about 22 years. In the last 2 years moved to work in the pediatric emergency room. My aim as a nurse, mother and wife is to help in giving life, hope and joy especially for suffering children and women in my society.

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