

TOPIC: DETERMINANTS OF INDUCED ABORTION AMONG MARRIED WOMEN: STUDY OF MARRIED WOMEN IN EKITI STATE.

Introduction

Worldwide, an estimated five million women are hospitalized each year for treatment of abortion-related complications, such as hemorrhage and sepsis. Complications due to unsafe abortion procedures account for an estimated 13% of maternal deaths worldwide, or 67,000 per year. Almost all abortion-related deaths occur in developing countries. This death rate from unsafe abortion is one of the highest in Africa. In Nigeria situation, abortions account for 20%–40% of maternal deaths in Nigeria and unintended intercourse is the primary cause of unwanted pregnancies, and many women with unwanted pregnancies decide to end them by abortion. Since abortion is illegal in Nigeria, many abortions are carried out clandestinely, and often in an unsafe environment. Induced abortion is not only widespread in Nigeria but is also provided and practiced in a number of different settings, from traditional medical practitioners, herbalists, and private practicing clinicians to modern pharmacists. The consequences of these clandestine abortions are grave and can be life-threatening, often leading to maternal death. Some scholars are of the opinion that solution to African women's reproductive health challenges should not be limited to medicine and biology but should also be sought within the social and cultural contexts under which pregnancies occur. Thus the aim of the study was to identify those factor that are responsible for abortion among married women. The specific objective were to:(i) ascertain how married women perceive abortion (ii) to find out the rate of abortion among married women (iii) ascertain level of contraceptives usage among married women.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Ekiti state, south west, Nigeria. Ekiti state is a patrilineal society with many socio cultural believes and practice. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were adopted for this study. Open ended questions and in-depth interview was the major research instrument employed for the study. The open- ended questions were given to 240 married women of child bearing age (21-50years) and 20 in-depth interviews were conducted among 20 female married nurses in the State Teaching Hospital and the health centers across the state where abortion complicated cases were predominant. These research instruments were employed because it help individual respondents to express themselves, describes situations as they are, and also enhance detailed and adequate information, on the subject of the study. Purposive and availability sampling technique were employed for the selection of the respondents in the study area. The study had some limitation due to the fact that abortion is illegal in Nigeria. Nigerians believe that anything that has to do with pregnancy among married women is a personal matter. A Yoruba adage says “you don't ask a married woman who impregnated her” (Eniyan o le bere lowo adalebo ibi to ti gbo' yun wa). There is no comprehensive document (secondary data) available on the abortion cases. Also people were not willing to discussion abortion openly.

Descriptive statistics like frequencies and percentages were employed in interpreting the data, while chi-square was used in testing the hypotheses. Information from the qualitative data was transcribed and ordered in themes to ensure that outstanding points of the responses are noted.

RESULTS

Ninety two point eight percent (92.8%) of married women were fully aware of family planning. Different methods of family planning services are available at the study area. IUSD family planning method is mostly used by those married women that are presently on contraceptives in the research area. 74.6% of the respondents did not make use of any modern family planning method. About (36.2%) had practiced abortion at a time or the other.

Distribution of Multiple Responses of Socio-Cultural Factors Influencing Induced Abortion among Married women (n=240)

Responses	Cases%
Contraceptives have dangerous adverse effect	62.7
Contraceptives can cause future infertility	48.2
I know how to manage my sexual activities	42.6
I can never use contraceptives	64.8
My husband did not support contraceptives usage	64.3
I have my way of preventing pregnancy after sexual intercourse	38.1
Its only promiscuous married women that go for abortion	46.5
I think is only on health issues that a married woman can go for abortion outside extra marital affairs	53.1
How a woman handle her pregnancy is personal	44.9