ABORTION: A SOCIAL WORK STUDY

by

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DEDICATED TO MY FAMILY:

MY PARENTS: JOHANNES AND MARIA

MY SISTERS: TSHOLOELO AND SARA

MY BROTHERS: LEBO AND LEO

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MY PARENTS: JOHANNES AND MARIA

MY CHILDREN: TUMISANG, KEFILWE AND GORATILEONA

MY SISTERS: TSHOLOFELO AND SARA

MY BROTHERS: LOUIS AND JIMMY

MY BROTHER-IN-LAW: KABELO
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SUMMARY

ABORTION: A SOCIAL WORK STUDY

Candidate : Johannah Sekedu
Department : Social Work: University of Pretoria
Promoter : Dr. C.L. Carbonatto
Degree : DPhil (Social Work)

The aim of this study was to explore and describe the psychosocial aspects of abortion on the woman. Both qualitative and quantitative research approaches were used. The exploratory and descriptive research designs were used, because little information was available on the topic under study, specifically social work intervention with women who opt for termination of pregnancy.

A questionnaire was used as a data collection method for the quantitative phase of the study. The questionnaires were administered by the researcher on a person-to-person basis. The purposive sampling method was used to draw a sample, and a sample of eighty (80) women was drawn at Kalafong Hospital, Termination of Pregnancy (TOP) Clinic.

For the qualitative phase of the study thirty five (35) abortion files were selected and reviewed. These files were selected from the files of women who requested termination of pregnancy at the Women’s Choice Clinic in Pretoria. The simple random sampling method was used to draw the sample.

The medical aspects of termination of pregnancy were discussed, with the emphasis on the methods of termination of pregnancy at different periods of gestation; abortion-related risks and complications and the management of complications, as well as the prevention of complications.

The psychosocial aspects of termination of pregnancy were then discussed, with the emphasis on factors leading to unwanted and unplanned pregnancies; emotional reactions to an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy; adolescents and abortion as well as counselling.

Then followed the legal aspects of termination of pregnancy, with emphasis on the international abortion policies and an in-depth discussion of the South
African abortion policy, namely Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act 92 of 1996.

The findings from the quantitative phase were then presented graphically and discussed. It was confirmed from the study that termination of pregnancy is accompanied by a variety of implications. The major reason for women to opt for termination of pregnancy is financial problems. Women from all religious backgrounds request termination of pregnancy.

It was revealed that termination of pregnancy during the first trimester lessens the occurrence of complication, whereas, termination of pregnancy during the second trimester puts the women at risk of complications.

The provision of the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act (92 of 1996), on the non-mandatory counselling services leads to non-provision of counselling at the state abortion facilities. This results in women who opt for abortion at state abortion facilities not receiving a comprehensive service, which could have devastating consequences on their lives.

The social worker as the provider of psychosocial service needs to be a part of the medical team that renders the abortion service, on a full-time basis, so that all the aspects related to termination of pregnancy could be attended to at a one-stop service facility.

The bio-psychosocial model was found to be the appropriate one to use when rendering the abortion services, for the women to be provided with a comprehensive service, as all the psychosocial aspects of their situation will be taken into consideration.

Lastly, the guidelines for social work intervention at the TOP Clinic are provided, based on the findings from the study.
OPSOMMING

ABORSIE: ‘n MAATSKAPlIKEWERKSTUDIE

Kandidaat : Johannah Sekudu
Departement : Maatskaplike Werk: Universiteit van Pretoria
Promotor : Dr. C.L. Carbonatto
Graad : DPhil (Maatskaplike Werk)

Die doel van hierdie studie was om die psigososiale aspekte van aborsie vir
die vrou te verken en te beskryf. Beide kwalitatiewe en kwantitatiewe
navorsingsbenaderings is benut vir die studie. Die verkennende en
beskrywende navorsingsontwerpe is gebruik, omdat baie min kennis oor
hierdie onderwerp beskikbaar is, spesifiek maatskaplike intervensie ten
opsigte van vroue wat kies om ‘n aborsie te ondergaan.

‘n Vraelys is gebruik as die datainsamelingsmetode vir die kwantitatiewe
fase van die studie. Die navorser het die vraelys deur die respondente op ‘n
persoon-tot-persoon basis laat voltooı. Die doelgerigte
steekproeftrekkingsmetode is gebruik om die steekproef van tagtig (80)
vroue by Kalafong Hospitaal se Aborsie Kliniek te trek.

Vir die kwalitatiewe fase van die studie is vyf – en- dertig (35) aborsie
gevalle geselekteer en patiënteleërs hersien by die Women’s Choice Clinic
te Pretoria. Die eenvoudige ewekansige steekproefnemingsmetode is benut
om die steekproef te trek.

Die mediese aspekte van aborsie is bespreek, met klem op die metode van
aborsie tydens verskillende trimesters van die swangerskap; die risiko wat
verband hou met aborsie en hoe dit behandel is, sowel as die voorkoming
van risiko.

Die psigososiale implikasies wat gepaard gaan met aborsie is bespreek, met
klem op die faktore wat met ‘n onbeplande en onwelkome swangerskap
verband hou; die emosionele reaksies op ‘n onbeplande swangerskap;
adolessente en aborsie sowel as begeleiding.

Daarna is die wetlike aspekte van aborsie bespreek, met klem op die
internasionale beleide en indiepte bespreking van die Suid-Afrikaanse
aborsiebeleid, naamlik, die Wet op Keuse oor die Beëindiging van Swangerskap (92/1996).

Die bevindinge van die kwantitatiewe fase is grafies voorgestel en daarna bespreek. Dit is bevestig dat die beëindiging van swangerskap met psigososiale implikasies gepaard gaan. Die hoof motivering vir die vroue om die beëindiging van swangerskap te kies, is finansiële probleme. Vroue van al die gelowe versoek beëindiging van swangerskap.

Die studie het aan die lig gebring dat aborsie gedurende die eerste trimester van die swangerskap nie met kompleksies gepaard gaan nie, terwyl dit gedurende die tweede trimester van die swangerskap baie kompleksies inhou.

Aangesien begeleiding van vroue wat aborsie ondergaan nie deur die Wet op Keuse oor die Beëindegig van Swangerskap (92/1996) afgedwing word nie, ontvang hierdie vroue dus nie so ‘n diens nie. Dit veroorsaak dat die vroue wat ‘n aborsie by veral staatsfasiiteite ondergaan nie ‘n omvattende diens ontvang.

Die maatskaplike werker as die verskaffer van die psigososiale diens moet op ‘n voltydse basis inskakel by die mediese span wat die aborsiediens lewer. Sodoende sal al die aspekte wat verband hou met aborsie by ‘n een-stop diensfasiliteit aangespreek word.

Die bio-psigososiale model is bevind om die geskikste model te wees wat gebruik kan word wanneer die aborsiedienste gelewer word, sodat omvattende aborsiedienste aan vroue gelewer word.
KEY CONCEPTS

ENGLISH

Abortion
Unplanned pregnancy
Termination of pregnancy
Social functioning
Psychosocial
Health care
Family planning
Multi-disciplinary team
Bio-psychosocial model
Counselling
Social work intervention

AFRIKAANS

Aborsie
Onbeplande swangerskap
Beëindegings van swangerskap
Maatskaplike funksionering
Psigososiale
Gesondheidsorg
Gesinsbeplanning
Multi-diisilinere span
Bio-psigososiale model
Beraad
Maatskaplike werk intervensie
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