UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

REASONS, AND EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH COMPLICATIONS RELATED TO INDUCED ABORTION OF KURDISH WOMEN IN SANANDAJ, IRAN

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OF KURDISH WOMEN IN SANANDAJ, IRAN

By

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REASONS, AND EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH COMPLICATIONS RELATED TO INDUCED ABORTION OF KURDISH WOMEN IN SANANDAJ, IRAN

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September 2012

Chairman: Haliza Binti Mohd Riji, PhD
Faculty: Medicine and Health Sciences

Abortion is illegal in Iran, yet women go through the risks for various reasons. A qualitative study was conducted with the purpose of exploring the reasons, emotional and physical health complications of Kurdish women who had an illegal, induced abortion one year before the interview.

Twenty women were recruited through purposive sampling method from the maternity and family planning units in health-care centers in Sanandaj, Iran. The participants were interviewed in-depth for their abortion stories either at the health center or in their homes. A generic qualitative research approach was used to analyze the data. Trustworthiness was ensured through member checks, peer examination, and a documentation of an audit trail of the research activities.
Three themes evolved from the women’s response regarding the reasons why they decided to go in for the abortion; deciding to abort due to unintended pregnancy, deciding to abort due to self-pity, and deciding to abort due to family and social pressure. Nine themes related to women’s emotional complications also emerged. Two themes sadness and ambivalence were identified prior to abortion. During the abortion, three themes loneliness, feeling of frustration and worry emerged and four themes that reflected women’s emotions after abortion were fear, guilt, ambivalent emotions and regret. However, two themes, early-abortion complications and late-abortion complications, emerged from the data analysis regarding the women’s physical health complications. A conceptual model also emerged from the findings.

Through this qualitative study, an insight into Kurdish women’s experiences of induced abortion was gained. Findings from this study can be used by Iran’s Health Ministry to review and revise its policy to include pre-abortion and post-abortion counseling. Midwives must take responsibility of effectively counseling couples before and after induced abortion, which may be performed for a variety of reasons. Post-abortion care for women with physical and emotional needs is also crucial. Recommendations for further researches are included.
Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

SEBAB-SEBAB, EMOSI DAN KOMPLIKASI KESIHATAN EMOSI DAN FIZIKAL BERHUBUNG PENGGUGURAN CETUSAN WANITA KURD DI SANANDAJ, IRAN

Oleh
Fariba Ebtekar

September 2012

Pengerusi: Haliza Binti Mohd Riji, PhD
Fakulti: Perubutan dan Sains Kesihatan

Pengguguran diharamkan di Iran, namun wanita menhadapi risikonya kerana beberapa sebab. Sebuah kajian kualitatif telah dijalankan yang bertujuan untuk mencungkil sebab-sebab, emosi dan komplikasi kesihatan fisikal wanita Kurd yang telah mengalami pengguguran cetusan setahun sebelum kajian dijalankan.

Dua puluh wanita telah dipilih melalui kaedah pesampelan bertujuan dari unit ibu mengandung dan perancang keluarga pusat kesihatan. Peserta telah ditemuselidik dengan mendalam tentang kisah pengguruan mereka sama ada di pusat kesihatan atau di rumah mereka di Sanandaj, Iran. Pendekatan kajian kualitatif generik telah digunakan untuk menganalisis data. Kebolehpercayaan dipastikan melalui semakan ahli, pemeriksaan rakan setara, dan dokumentasi audit kegiatan penyelidikan.

Melalui kajian ini, suatu penemuan mendalam telah didapati tentang pengalaman wanita Kurd mengenai pengguguran cetusan. Penemuan daripada kajian ini boleh digunakan oleh Kementerian Kesihatan Iran untuk meneliti dan memperbaiki semula dasar kesihatan wanita agar memasukkan hal-hal tentang kaunseling sebelum dan selepas pengguguran. Bidan semestinya mengambil tanggungjawab untuk memberikan kaunseling berkesan kepada pasangan sebelum dan sesudah pengguran indusi dilakukan. Penjagaan wanita selepas pengguguran yang memerlukan keperluan rawatan fizikal dan emosi adalah sangat penting. Syor-syor untuk kajian lanjutan dimuatkan.
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It is nice to have come to the end of a journey. I now prepare to embark on yet another, more challenging one.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on date 11.09.2012 on viva voce to conduct the final examination of Fariba Ebtekar on her thesis entitled “Reasons, Emotional and Physical Health Complications related to Induced Abortion of Kurdish Women in Sanandaj, Iran” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U. (A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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Date:
DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

_________________________________________
FARIBA EBTEKAR
Date: 11 September 2012
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