

Thesis

The causes of illegal : A case study
of Tamboi Namsueng, Amphoe Mueng,
Khon Kaen Province

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of This study were to investigate the population, economic, and social aspects of the illegal abortion patients; and to study the causes of such illegal abortion that took place in Tamboi Namsueng, Amphoe Mueng Khon Kaen Province. The researcher and his assistants collected data by means of interviewing the patients. The researcher himself stayed in the house of one of the women who performed illegal abortion. 400 patients were needed to provide an adequate data base for analyzing the data; and to attain this target the researcher had to spend 5 months and 17 days in the illegal abortion house.

From the collected data, the results revealed that:

The women who got illegal abortion were mainly single females aged between 20 and 24 years old. Most of the patients were students who were studying at the time of getting an illegal abortion and most of them were studying at the college level. Most of the patients' parents were still alive but the patients themselves were staying away from the family in dormitories.

Most of the patients spouses or boy friends were reported single with the age between 25 and 29 years. Most of them finished vocational schools at the diploma level. The occupation of the majority was that of government official and earned more than 3000 baht per month.

For the patients who were married (21.50%), most had their first marriage at the age of between 20 and 24 years. Most of them had two children. Regardless of this illegal abortion, most of them had already had abortion at least once. Most of them had been pregnant for 2-3 months before going to see the abortionist.

Most of the patients already had experience in using birth control and had experienced at least one previous abortion. The place where the illegal abortions took place were the performers' own houses. Before going for the illegal, most of the patients had already taken some kinds of medicines that were believed to get rid of the zygote. Spouses or boy friends of the patients agreed and encouraged the patients to get illegal abortion. But most of the patients parents were not informed about the matter. Most of the patients who went for the abortions in this place were recommended by their spouses or boy friends.

The causes of the illegal abortions were more often social than economic with the specific reasons of being a student, being unmarried, and having boy friends who were already married.

For those who got illegal abortions for economic reasons, the causes were that pregnancy would obstruct their careers or that they could not afford to raise their children. Some patients were not ready to have children and some already had enough children.