

## Abstract

This study has focused on 'abortion choice' that has relates to the advocacy from the professions involving in the action. The aim of this qualitative study was to investigate the attitudes as well as the roles of those professions towards abortion choice. This research has explored how their attitudes might have been governed by social norms which included motherhood, sexuality, morality, legitimacy and feminism. The objective was to understand the existing problem in depth which was hoped to lead to collaboration among professions in preventing and solving this social problem.

The method applied in this study was to interview people in ten professions who have involved directly and indirectly in 'abortion'. The professions interviewed included those in medical practices, legal professions, activists for woman's health advocacy, academia, human right campaigners, social workers, religious groups, politicians, relevant governmental bodies and the media. The interviews were qualitative and selective for those who have an attitude that abortion could have been a 'choice' for women.

The result of this study has shown that the viewpoints of the society towards motherhood and abortion have been significantly influenced by social norms that have affected the action to choose abortion as a solution. However the woman's health advocates and the reproductive right activists have argued that abortion should be a choice for women. Although abortion choice has long been a sensitive issue which has not been reconciled satisfactorily, in practice abortion has been chosen and considered to be one of the basic rights to control one's body. That right might have been considered differently from one profession to the others because abortion has been a difficult option. However there are voices asking for the right for this action which is based on women's health.

The ages of women who opt for abortion tend to be younger and the seem to be prepared for a riskier method. As long as abortion is still illegal and ignored by the society, those women are left to face with the problem themselves.

There are several professions involved in abortion. Researchers, for example, have contributed in developing research discipline and collecting data whereas the activists for woman's health advocacy have played the part in educating, campaigning and helping those women. However this study has shown that the role of those professions in protecting basic rights for women was rather obscure. On one hand each individual profession might have come across the abortion issue in different circumstances which might have affected the way they handle the situation. The result of this study shows that despite some approval from those professions for abortion choice, it has been suggested that the action should be considered with certain circumstances such the necessity of the individual, the duration of the pregnancy and the women's awareness for the action.

This problem requires consistent attention and there should be some certainty in the direction for protecting the rights for women.

This study has proposed some possibility in protecting women's rights and helping those women who are facing with problems. The problem should be looked at from the root. The attitude of people in the society might be the core of it. The society cannot afford to ignore this problem. Abortion choice should be an acceptable alternative for unwanted pregnancy. Campaigning could be useful to emphasis the existing problem that requires attention from the society as well as from the government as the policies maker. Additionally it is necessary that certain professions meet to exchange information and opinions concerning this issue. It may result in collaborations among governmental and private organisations as they have the same objectives that are to prevent the problem and to help those women accordingly to their circumstance.