

Thesis Title	Psycho-social and Cultural Factors Affecting Modern Contraceptive Practice Among Women Seeking Pregnancy Termination in Hanoi, Vietnam
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ABSTRACT

This study examined the relationship between psycho-social and cultural factors and modern contraceptive practice among women seeking pregnancy termination in Hanoi, Vietnam. The hypothesized conceptual framework for the study was developed by modifying the phase 4 of the PRECEDE-PROCEED model. The research was carried out by using the structured-interview schedule to interview 260 women aged 18-48 years, with 87 percent of them being married, who came to the Hanoi Obstetric-Gynecological Hospital requesting pregnancy termination. Most of the women had had at least one previous induced abortion or menstrual regulation.

The results of the study revealed that the patterns of contraceptive use prior to current pregnancy of women seeking pregnancy termination were relying on less effective methods such as rhythm and withdrawal or using effective methods such as condom, pill and IUD irregularly and improperly. The study found that the women who wanted to stop childbearing were more likely to use modern methods than those who did not. The women who knew more contraceptive methods were more likely to use modern methods than those who knew less. The women who perceived more barriers to modern contraceptive use such as unsafe, inconvenient, painful, nervous, shameful, unpleasant sex and time-consuming, and so on were less likely to use modern methods than those who perceived fewer barriers. The women who perceived advantages of modern contraceptive methods such as more effective and reliable, easier to use, and so on in comparison to traditional methods were more likely to use modern methods than those who perceived disadvantages such as side effects, decrease of sexual pleasure and partner's disapproval, and so on. The women who had partner's approval of using modern contraceptives were more likely to use modern methods than those who had partner's disapproval. A relationship between religious belief related to contraception and modern contraceptive use was not found due

to selecting the study population being women seeking pregnancy termination. Perceived availability and accessibility to contraceptive services were not associated with modern contraceptive use in Hanoi.

The study suggests the framework of psycho-social and cultural factors can be used fruitfully to understand contraceptive use differences in women.