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WU JIULING: CONTRACEPTIVE USE BEHAVIOR AMONG NEVER-MARRIED YOUNG WOMEN WHO HAVE UNWANTED PREGNANCY: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY IN BEIJING, CHINA. THESIS ADVISORS: ORATAI RAUYAJIN, M.A. Dr.P.H., SUVAJEE GOOD, Ph.D., VANAWIPHA PASANDHATORN, M.A., WANG LING, M.D.P 177. ISBN 974-664-052-6

In the context of an increasing incidence of unwanted pregnancy and induced abortion among never-married young women in China, a cross-sectional study aimed at identifying contraceptive use behavior (CUB) during the past 12 months and its determinants among never-married young women who had unwanted pregnancy in Beijing was conducted in 1999-2000. A modified model based on the phase 4 of the PRECEDE – PROCEED was applied as a conceptual framework of this study. The results of this study were drawn from the structured questionnaire survey among a sample of 306 young women, aged 18-24 who had unwanted pregnancy and were seeking pregnancy termination at selected hospitals in Beijing, supplemented by in-depth interviews with 8 subjects.

The findings of this study indicated that only one-eighth(13%) of the women insisted on contraceptive use every time, one-third (33.7%) used contraceptives most of the time, and almost an equal proportion (26.4%, 26.8% respectively) occasionally or never used contraceptives. In addition, the methods used most often were condom (49%), withdrawal (27.7%) and the rhythm method (15.6%), whereas, the use of pills was very low(5%) among 224 women who had used contraceptives during the past 12 months. One of the most important reasons, cited by 73.1 percent of women who had never used contraceptives, was that they did not think about getting pregnant when they engaged in sexual activities.

The results of logistic regression analysis revealed that knowledge about contraception, boyfriend's approval of contraceptive use, perceived susceptibility to pregnancy, perceived availability of contraceptive service and discussion of contraception with boyfriend were important indicators of young women's CUB. Also, the qualitative study found that knowledge about pregnancy, responsibility for contraceptive use and counseling service were the factors affecting women's CUB.

These findings demonstrate that the modified model of the PRECEDE – PROCEED are useful in terms of understanding the young women's CUB. Furthermore, the results indicate that there is an urgent need for regular and effective sex education among young women and men, and for the provision of counseling service prior to and post-abortion at hospitals in order to reduce the repetition of abortion.