

A STUDY ON THE ABORTION SEEKERS IN PONDICHERRY REGION

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The present study was carried out in two private hospitals in Pondicherry region with the objectives to study the socio-economic conditions, health profile - General health and maternal health, the medical and non-medical causes for seeking abortion and to find out in which trimester there are more prevalence of abortion and also to read the psyche of the abortion seekers. The sample comprised of 115 cases who got enrolled for Medically Terminating Pregnancy (MTP) during the study period of 4 months i.e.) May – August 2003. Among 115 samples, 93 had induced abortion, 22 had spontaneous abortion ie) 20 had sporadic and 2 had recurrent abortion. The tools administered were interview schedule and self assessment schedule.

Result of the study revealed that majority of the abortion seekers were in the age group of 26-30yrs. Based on family income 33.91 percent of the respondents received Rs. 3001-5000 per month as their monthly income. Majority of the samples accepted abortion as a method of birth control or spacing while some resorted to abortion due to foetal abnormalities whereas reasons for sporadic abortion revealed that miscarriages were due to general weakness and also due to weak uterus. Majority of induced and of sporadic abortions were performed during the first trimester. Psychological assessment revealed majority of induced cases were moderately fit while 55% of sporadic cases were depressed, thus emotional strain would have led to miscarriages.