

Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	International Health Development Course (MPH)	Name	Soukdavone SOUKSAVATH
Thesis Title	Qualitative Survey of Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice on Contraception, Pregnancy, and Abortion among women who experienced unsafe Abortion and Admitted to Mahosot Hospital, Vientiane Lao PDR		
Abstract of Master's Dissertation <p>Objective : This qualitative research study aims to understand the current knowledge, attitudes, practices, and perceptions concerning contraception and abortion among women who had experienced an unsafe abortion and who were hospitalized at the gynecology ward of the Mahosot Hospital in Vientiane, Lao PDR.</p> <p>Result : Seventeen women participated in the study, ten married and seven unmarried. They had a relative lack of knowledge on family planning; and most of the participants had negative attitudes on contraceptive methods. The participants stated several reasons for non-use of contraceptives, including a fear of side effects in the genitals, risk of infertility, or cancer. The factors revealed by the respondents regarding reluctance to access a health facility after pregnancy included ignorance of the existence of safe abortion services in the hospital, worry about cost of abortion, and feelings of anxiety for requesting an abortion in the hospital because of fear of complaints from the health care provider.</p>			

* The abstract, containing the objective, method, result and conclusion should not exceed 300-500words and printed double sided on A4 paper)

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<p>Despite that most respondents were aware of the advantages of contraceptive usage, their access to family planning information or services was limited. Unmarried women were concerned with confronting social norms or community bashing for getting pregnant outside marriage, thus choosing an abortion. All women decided to undergo informal abortions due to economic and cultural barriers. In the case of unwanted pregnancy or complications due to unsafe abortions, women preferred to consult with friends, partners, or husbands rather than visit health facilities to seek solutions. They received information from their relatives and friends about abortive pills. In that sense, women trust the effectiveness of the abortive pills.</p> <p>Conclusion : The study found that health facilities were not a primary source for family planning information and less utilized for safe abortion services by those who had an unwanted pregnancy. Contraceptives were not used properly, and misperception of contraceptive methods prevented access to effective contraception. There is a need to raise the awareness on the importance of contraception and improve the availability and access to secure abortion consultation services in this group of women. Interventions that target partners, spouses, and families should be considered to motivate women to visit antenatal care and access to a safer abortion procedure in the hospital. Women-friendly services for safe abortion at health facilities must be promoted in Lao PDR.</p>			

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