

Extended abstract

The meet needs between policies and the research findings on Induced Abortion

Induced abortion has been recognized as a backward of family planning and health programs since several international reports pointed out the high level of induced abortion rate in Vietnam. Since these reports were published, many the research studies and the surveys on induced abortion have been implemented and various policy measurements have been formulating in FP and health programs to reduce high induced abortion rate. These actions reflect the efforts of the managers and policy makers on reproductive health and family planning programs. To demonstrate the met need of policy complications and the research finding on induced abortion in Vietnam, this paper reviews the finding from two research studies on induced abortion, which are conducted by the Commissions for Population, Family and Children and Ministry of Health in Vietnam.

An induced abortion research in 2000 showed that the number of complications related to abortions is very high. This indicated the prevalence of unsafe abortions in Vietnam, particular for women in rural areas. Although post-abortion care was presented in the public health services, a large number of clients were reluctant to return to the prior service center for treatment of complications. This suggested the low quality of counseling and care in abortion sites.

Induced abortion services were availability and accessibility whole country, particular the menstrual regulation services. Besides, the fees for induced abortion services were very low. Therefore, many women felt free to access to terminate their unwanted pregnancies. It was more serious that two third clients did not receive medical examination of pregnancy before undergo induced abortion.

Although the health and FP managers aware that the technical skills of the providers on induced abortion procedure were problems, the training courses on abortion were provided for abortionist. However regularly practicing also was uncompleted procedure in induced abortion sites. The effectiveness of family planning programs was evaluated by the high rate of contraceptive prevalence rate. The high rate of failure in using contraceptive methods, particularly the modern contraceptive methods was regarded inadequate modern contraceptive methods and incomprehensive technical skills and counseling of the providers. In addition, the Family Planning ICE program as well as FP services and its community based on distribution system neglected network only focused on the couples and married women, the unmarried youths.

Several findings of this research study has been interested in the managers in reproductive health, resulting in a part of policy adjustment on accessing abortion services, protocols on and safe abortion and counseling in the health services for both

adults and youths. In 2004 another survey on induced abortion shows that almost of the problems that the last study was mentioned above has been changing.

However, health and family planning managers and policy makers have put much effort to reduce the abortion rate, the trends of induced abortion is difficult to predict, due to a big gap between the number of induced abortion that are collected from service's records of health system and the some big surveys like DHS 1997, DHS 2002, Inter Censal Demographic Surveys. The number of induced abortion cases in the health statistical yearbooks fall down dramatically nearly two thirds from 1994 to 2002. But the Total Induced Abortion Rates (TA) has slightly changed during this period in the big survey at national levels. This big gap is discussed in this paper by using the ad hoc survey and other survey at the national level.

Because of the concern on the target of reduced abortion rate in Vietnam, the managers had concentrated on the research studies on induced abortion, resulting in improving the quality of care on induced abortion, raising awareness on harm redundant on induced abortion, and contributing the more effectiveness of contraceptive methods. However the induced abortion rate is till controversy among researchers as well as family planning and health managers and needs more concerning if not the target of reducing abortion rate by one half up to year 2010 is not be able to get successful.