

Topic: A Mixed Methods Study of Post Abortion Women and Service Providers in the Ashanti region of Ghana

Introduction

I am Mercy Otsin, a PhD student at Latrobe University. I am undertaking a Doctoral study at the Judith Lumley Centre for Mother, Infant and Family Health Research, in the school of Nursing and Midwifery. This study is about women who have experienced induced abortion related complications as well as persons involved in the provision of services. As a pharmacy worker who helps women needing abortions your views are extremely important in helping shape the provision of safe abortion services for women. I really do appreciate you taking time off your busy schedule to grant me this interview. I will want us to get to know each other a little bit before delving into the main issues.

Background information/warming up

1. Please how old you are?
2. Are you married?
3. Please what is the highest level of education you have attained?
4. Please tell me the number of years you have been practicing as a pharmacy worker?

Main issues

5. Please do women in the community who are pregnant but do not want to keep it often come here to seek for help in ending it?
6. In what ways do you assist them?
7. Please, what types of abortifacients do you have in stock?

Probe:

- The most popular?
- Why do you think those brands are preferred over the others?

8. Please tell me where you get your supplies from?
9. On the average, how much do they cost?
10. On the average how many abortifacients do you sell in a week?
11. Please how long have you been involved in selling abortifacients?
12. Do you just sell the abortifacients or you give them advice on the dosage as well?

Probe:

- Advice about how the abortifacient works
- Advice on what to do in the event of a complication
- Whether they dispense the medication on site or the women buy and administer it at home

13. There are various reasons women give for seeking terminations, please I will like to know some of the factors that might influence you in either providing or not providing services?
14. What are some of the characteristics of the women who seek for services?
15. Do you think this is the first point of call for women desiring to end their pregnancies?
Probe:
 - If yes, why do you think so
 - If no, why
16. Do you interact with them to ascertain how they found out about your services?
17. Have you received any training in medical abortion?
Probe:
 - If yes, ask source
 - If no, ask source of knowledge in the current work he/she is involved in
18. What do you know about the laws governing abortions in Ghana?
Probe:
 - How do you see the legislation
 - Does your knowledge about the law in anyway influence the kind of services you provide
 - Do you think it provides sufficient grounds for women to seek for safe abortion services
 - providers to do their work without fear of legal reprisals
19. Do you give advice about ways of preventing future pregnancies?
20. What are some of the challenges you face in your work?
21. How do you think they can be solved?

Closure

We have come to the end of the interview I want to thank you very much for your time. Is there anything else you would like to tell me? Anything you would have liked me to ask but I didn't or anything you need further clarification on

Thank you once again