

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 herb seller who helps women needing services 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 start by first asking some general questions about you before we delve into the substantive issues

Background information/warming up

1. Can you please tell your age?
2. Please 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 herb seller?
5. Please tell me what you do in a typical working day?

Main issues

6. Women who are pregnant but do not want to keep it go to various places to seek help in ending it, in your view do they often call on you first for help before going anywhere else?

Probe:

- If yes, why do you think so
- If no, why
- Do you interact with them to ascertain how they find out about your services?

7. Please tell me the types of methods you provide?

Probe:

- Types of herbs used?
- Source of supply of the herbs?
- Mode of administration?
- How it works?

8. Please share with me how efficacious the different methods are?

9. There are various reasons women often give for seeking terminations, please I will like to know some of the reasons that might influence you in either providing or not providing services for them?
10. What are some of the characteristics of the women who seek for services?
11. Do you always provide the services in this facility or there are instances where you arrange with patients and provide services elsewhere?
12. Apart from the herbs do you use any instrument in providing services?
13. Please tell me what you do if something goes wrong during service provision?
14. Please how much do you charge for your services?
15. Do you give advice about ways of preventing future pregnancies?
16. 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 without fear of legal reprisals?
17. What about the providers, in your view does their knowledge of the law in any way influence the kind of services provided?
18. There are other places like hospitals where women seeking terminations can go, why do you think they prefer your services over the others?
19. What are some challenges you face in your work?

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

I wish to thank you once again