

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

Introduction:

Issues about abortion is sensitive and some of the questions I will be asking may make you feel uncomfortable, but as you have read/have had explained to you from the participant information statement and the consent forms your responses will be kept confidential, anonymous and you have the right to withdraw from the study at any time. If you are uncomfortable with a question just let me know and I will move to the next one.

We can use local language if they are more comfortable with it.

I want to thank you for you agreeing to participate in the study

I will start by asking a few general questions about you

Background Information

1. Please how old are you?
2. Can you read and write?
3. What is the highest level of school you have attended?
4. To which religious group do you belong?
5. Are you currently married?
6. Please what you do for a living?
7. What about your partner, what work does he do?
8. Where do you live?
9. How far is it from this health facility?

Reproduction

Now I will want us to talk a bit about the number of pregnancies and births that you have experienced so far

10. Please how many times have you been pregnant in your life?
11. Sometimes women become pregnant a number of times but not all will result in live births, please tell me the number of children you have?
12. Let us come back to the just ended pregnancy, at the time you became pregnant did you want to become pregnant then?

Probe

- Whether participant wanted to wait until later or
- Did not want to have any more children?

13. What was the reaction of your partner to the pregnancy?

Probe

- If partner unaware of pregnancy?

Family planning and contraceptive use

Were you using contraception when any of these pregnancies and births occurred?

Probe

- If no, reason for non-use

14. What about the current pregnancy which ended, were you using contraception?

Induced abortions

15. Apart from the just ended pregnancy, have you ever been in a situation where you had to intervene in ending a pregnancy?

16. Now let us come back to the just ended pregnancy, please remember that this interview is confidential and everything you say will not be divulged to anyone unrelated to the research team. Women who happen to be pregnant when they do not want to sometimes take several actions in trying to end it, what are some of the things you did in trying to end this pregnancy before finally deciding to access care at this health facility?

Probe:

- Source of knowledge on ways of self-inducing abortion.
- Duration of pregnancy when termination occurred
- If participant sort provider, ask:
 - ◆ Type of provider
 - ◆ Method provided
 - ◆ Instruments used
 - ◆ Facility where the procedure took place
 - ◆ Reason for choice of provider
 - ◆ How provider was identified
 - ◆ Cost of service
 - ◆ Distance between provider and residence
 - ◆ How the provider related to her
 - ◆ Satisfaction with the services
 - ◆ Whether they will opt for services again or recommend to a friend if need be?

- ◆ Ask why they did not first come to the hospital after deciding on abortion

- Ask for a comparison between the earlier provider and current provider in relation to the initial probes

17. What were some of the health challenges you encountered in your initial attempts at ending the pregnancy before finally reporting at this health facility?

Probe:

- What attempts were made at treating the complications before report at health facility?
- I will want us now to focus briefly on your partner, what were his views about ending the pregnancy?

Probe

- If partner unaware of pregnancy and abortion?

18. Going back to when you were pregnant, what was the main reason for not wanting to keep it?

19. With whom did you decide on ending the pregnancy?

Probe

- Reasons for choice of person?

20. What about your community, how do they see abortion?

Probe:

- Ways in which community perceptions affected abortion decisions?

21. I want us to now come back to the health facility, how far is this facility from where you live?

22. What made you decide to come here to seek for treatment after experiencing the complication?

23. After the treatment were you given advice about ways of preventing future pregnancies?

Probe

- Whether participant accepted a method and the type of method?
- If did not find out why?

24. Finally, please tell me what you know about the law concerning abortion in Ghana

Closure

We have come to the end of the interview 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