

STUDY OF 1288 CASES OF M.T.P.

by

PRABHA AGARWAL,* M.S.

and

PADMA BHATT,** M.S.

The practice of interrupting healthy pregnancy is an ancient one throughout the world. Large number of married women also underwent illegal abortion rather than carry particular unwanted child to term.

This review includes all women attending Zenana Hospital, Jaipur for termination of unwanted pregnancy from January 1975 to March 1976. During this period No. of cases were 1288.

Characteristics of women who underwent termination

One-thousand and sixty-nine i.e. 82% of cases were from urban areas while only 219 or 17.9% were from rural areas though 80% of women live in villages. It was felt that most of the women, due to ignorance or fear and lack of facilities, did not come to hospital from villages to receive medical assistance.

The observations according to religion show that the termination of pregnancy is more common in Hindus as compared to Muslims and Christians. 97.02% were Hindus, 2.01% were Muslims and 0.05% were christians. According to the

*Lecturer in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur.

**Reader in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur.

(The paper was read in first Rajasthan Obstetrics & Gynaecological Conference on 24-4-1976).

Accepted for publication on 18-10-1976.

latest census, 87.72% of the total population is of Hindus, 11.21% are Muslims, 2.06% are christians and the rest others.

95.03% women were married, 3.87% were single, either unmarried or divorced and 0.7% were widowed. The results are comparable to those of Jalnawalla (1975) where 84.3% of women were married and 8.6% to 10% were unmarried.

23.4% were illiterate, 57.09% had education upto High School only and 13.5% had College education. Our figures are comparable to those of Jalnawalla (1975) where 33% were illiterate and 67% literate. M.T.P. is more common in educated class but not in highly educated class.

15.21% had income below Rs. 200 and 57.06% had income of about 500 or above.

81.05% terminations were done before 12 weeks and only 18.95% were done between 12-20 weeks which are comparable to Jalnawalla's (1975) report in which 78.4% were before 12 weeks.

4.58% had no children. Most of these cases were those who had pregnancy due to rape. 7.6% of women sought termination after one living child, 12.57% had 2 children, 28.8% had 3 living children, 54.27% had 4 and more than 4 living children.

Table I shows distribution of cases according to living male children.

TABLE I
Distribution of Cases According to Living Male Children

Year	1975		1976		Total	Percentage
	Total	%	Total	%		
No. of male children						
Nil	94	9.6	39	12.62	133	10.2
1	158	15.84	93	30.00	251	19.5
2	260	26.57	98	31.7	358	27.7
3	327	33.40	40	12.94	367	28.5
4 & above	140	14.30	39	12.62	179	13.8
Total	979		309		1288	

TABLE II
Indications

Year	1975	1976	Total	%
Danger to the life of the mother	—	—	—	—
Injury to the physical health of the mother	3	—	3	0.27%
Injury to the Mental health of the mother	15	0	15	1.16%
Substantial risk that the child born will be handicapped	3	—	3	0.27%
Failure of contraceptive (Oral Condoms)	5	16	21	1.63%
Socioeconomic	916	286	1202	93.3%
Failure of vasectomy	2	0.20	2	0.15%
Rape	35	7	42	3.26%

Table II shows distribution of cases according to the indication for which termination was done. In 0.27% there was injury to the physical health of the mother. In 1.16% there was injury to the mental health of the mother; 3.2% cases were of rape. In 0.27% of cases termination was done because there was substantial risk that the coming child if born might be handicapped. In 6.3% of cases terminations were for failure of Contraceptives. In 0.15% it was due to failure of Vasectomy. In remaining 93.3% of cases terminations were done for

socioeconomic reasons, as also reported by Jainawalla's Series (1975) where 4/5th of women had termination for social reasons. Similar figures are reported in Hungary (92%) and Japan (95%).

Table III shows distribution of cases who accepted various types of contraceptive measures after termination. 48.6% cases had sterilization after termination. In 5.5% of cases husband had vasectomy done, 25.03% accepted I.U.C.D. and remaining cases accepted pills or other methods of contraception.

TABLE III
No. of Cases According to Method of Contraception

Year	1975		1976		Total	Percentage
	Total	%	Total	%		
Method of contraception						
Sterilization	467	47.70	159	51.45	626	48.6
Vasectomy	56	5.72	13	4.2	69	5.5
I.U.C.D.	239	25.43	87	28.1	326	25.3
Pills or Others	217	21.15	50	16.25	267	20.72
	979		309		1288	100

By this review of cases we come to the conclusion that M.T.P. is more popular in urban areas, among Hindus, in middle socioeconomic group and mainly for socioeconomic reasons. As the law is being known by more and more people the number of termination of pregnancy is

rising. Since 1st April '72 the number is 193 in 1972-73, 335 in 1973-74, 1038 in 1975-76, in our hospital.

References

1. Jalnawalla, S. F.: J. Obst. & Gynec. of India. 25: 588, 1975.