

STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH ABORTION IS DECIDING CHOICE TO PROVIDE OR SIDESTEP ABORTION SERVICES

CONTRIBUTORS

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BACKGROUND

Population of Pakistan is 185.1 million

2.25 million abortions were conducted in 2012

It is estimated that 6,23,000 women were treated for complications resulting from induced abortions

The vast majority of abortions were performed by unqualified providers or involved traditional methods.

Abortion is conditional in Pakistan

There is little evidence available on manifestation of abortion in Pakistan

BASICS ABOUT RESEARCH STUDY

Research Objective

To understand the expression of stigma associated with abortion by service providers providing abortion services and those not providing these services.

Methodology

- A mix method exploratory study was designed.
- Data was collected through trained interviewers.
- Basic descriptive analysis was carried out using SPSS.

Sites

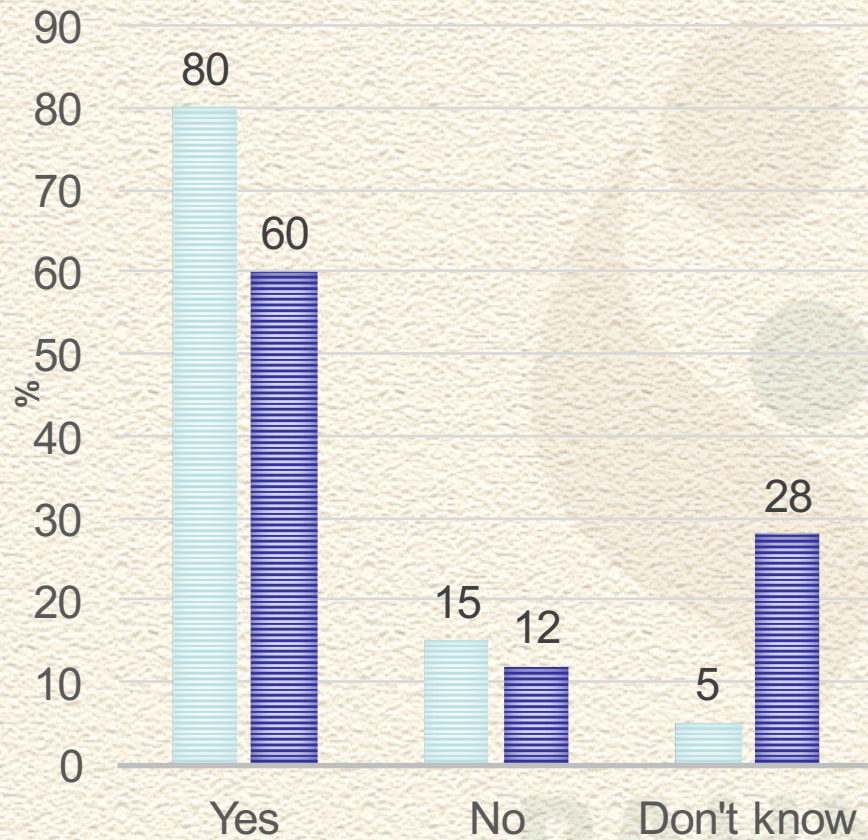
Data was collected from providers of reference facilities in 4 districts of Pakistan.

Respondents

- 40 providers providing abortion services, and
- 40 non-providers of these services

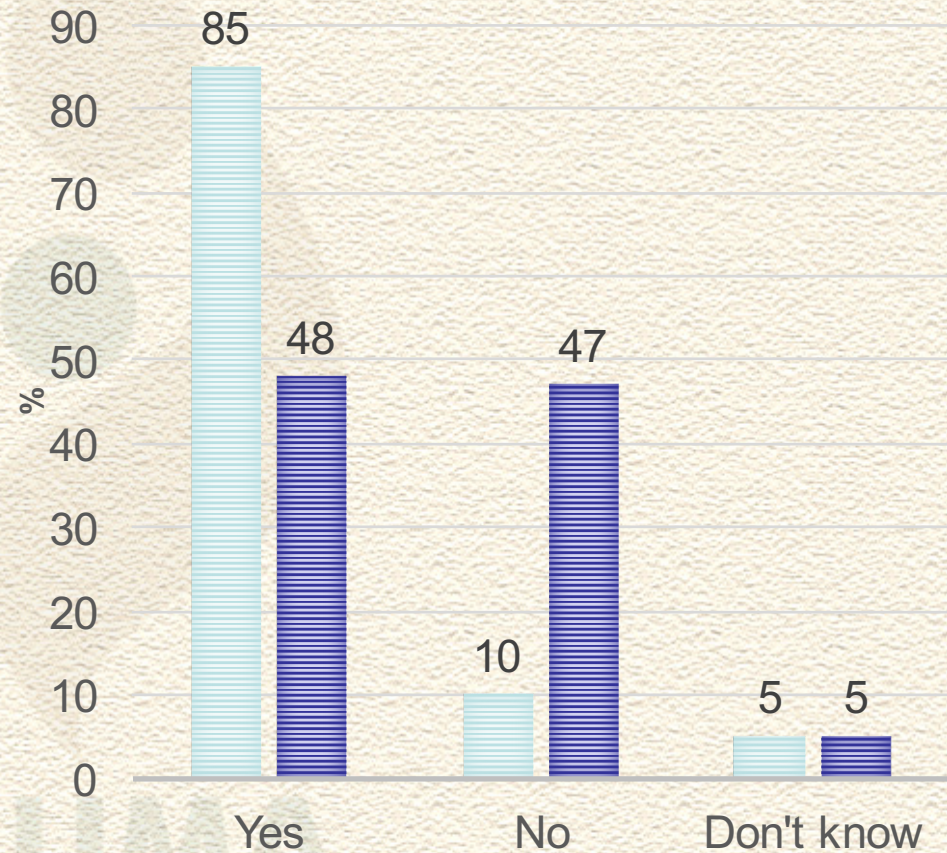
KNOWLEDGBASE OF RESPONDENTS

Is there any abortion law in Pakistan?



Providers
Non-providers

Is abortion permissible in Islam?



Providers
Non-providers

COMMUNITY PERCEIVED STIGMA ABOUT ABORTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Percent of service providers reporting perceived community perceptions about abortion service providers	Providers n=40	Non-Providers (n=40)
Should not be providing abortion services	7	12
Doing murder of a child	11	16
Providing illegal services	13	15
Providing unethical services	9	21
Doing shameful work	13	25
Committing immoral act	10	15
Committing sin	10	12
Performing abortion for making money	11	8
Providing desired services	15	5
Saving mother's life	18	7

INTERNALIZATION OF ABORTION STIGMA STEREOTYPES

Percent of service providers reporting their own perceptions about women seeking abortion services	Providers (n=40)	Non-Providers (n=40)
Women should have a right to decide alone to have an abortion	23	10
A woman should feel ashamed for having an abortion (a)	23	50
A woman who has an abortion brings shame to her family (a)	10	46
A woman who has an abortion is committing a sin (a)	23	63
A woman who has an abortion should be prohibited from going to religious services (a)	03	20

CONCLUSION

Statistically significant attributes regarding provider's choice of extending abortion services:

Perceptions about its religious permissibility,

Internalization of stigmatizing women seeking abortion services

However, there observed substantial difference in knowledge base of each type of service providers on abortion law in Pakistan and community perceptions about abortion service providers,

RECOMMENDATIONS

Value clarification and attitude transformation workshops for providers.

Formal and informal education about abortion law in the country

Behavior change communication and education strategies for sensitizing community

Integration/ institutionalization of essential contraceptive services including safe abortion services in regular service delivery package.

THANK YOU

RAHNUMA