3rd International Conference on

Reproductive Health and Medicine

May 21-22, 2018 | Vienna, Austria

Determinants of induced abortion in Hamedan, Iran

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Information on abortion is limited and most of them are not reliable in Iran. Induced abortion is illegal in this country and many women of reproductive age seek clandestine abortion to end unintended pregnancy. The aim of the current study was to seek determinants of induced abortion in the city of Hamedan, Iran. The study utilizes recent data from the 2015 Hamedan Survey of Fertility, using a representative sample of 3,000 married women aged 15–49 in the Hamedan region of Iran. The samples were interviewed face-to-face at the door houses by trained female interviewers during April–June 2015. Binary logistic regression models are used to assess factors associated with the incidenced abortion. Crude and adjusted odds ratios (OR) were calculated for each covariate with 95% confidence intervals. Overall, 3.8% of respondents reported induced abortion lifetime. Multivariate analysis showed that the incidence of abortion was strongly associated with women's education, type of using contraceptive and family income level, controlling for confounding factors. Women using long-acting contraceptive methods, and those with less than a high school or postsecondary education, and high level of income were more likely reported an induced abortion. The high incidence of abortion among less or more educated women and those with high economic level signify unmet family planning needs among these groups of women. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that these factors be addressed by focused reproductive health and family planning programs.