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Causes of unwanted pregnancy among women who utilize safe abortion and post abortion care in selected health institutions, Dessie town, Northeast, Ethiopia

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Background: Unwanted pregnancies, which are the most common cause of induced abortion around the world, are defined as those that occur at an inopportune time, as a result of unfavorable circumstances, or among women who do not want to have children. Unwanted pregnancies present an important social problem all over the world, but are more frequent in developing countries. Thus the main purpose of this study was to assess causes of unwanted pregnancy and associated factors among reproductive age women who utilize safe abortion and post abortion care in selected health institutions, Dessie town, northeast Ethiopia. A cross sectional quantitative study with analytic component was conducted among 290 women utilizing post abortion care and safe abortion service. The data was entered and analyzed by SPSS statistical program. Among 288 women participated, 228(79.2%) and 60(20.8%) of participants visit health facilities to seek safe abortion and post abortion services respectively. The prevalence of unplanned pregnancy among the study participants were 84%, the most common reason for this was 139(57.4%) failure to use contraceptive and the remaining 103(42.6%) of participants reported contraceptive failure as a reason for unwanted pregnancy. Furthermore, the leading causes for contraceptive nonuse were 73(24.3%) low perceived risk to be pregnant and 34(11.8%) rape. Ethiopian women often turn to abortion to avoid unwanted births. Meeting unmet need for family planning, counseling and information on SRH issues and protecting women from rape could substantially reduce the incidence of unwanted pregnancy and induced abortion.

Biography

Yirga Gismu has completed his MPH-RH at the age of 26 years from University of Gondar in 2004. He is lecturer in Wollo University College of Medicine and Health Sciences since 2006. He has also worked as a MARPs Survey Field Supervisor in a National HIV prevalence survey among Commercial sex workers in Ethiopia. He served as peer reviewer of scientific article for BMC journal. He is working as research advisor and examiner for student's research project.

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