

**UNDERLYING FACTORS DETERMINING  
UNSAFE INDUCED ABORTION AMONG RURAL WOMEN  
IN EAST JAVA, INDONESIA**

**GUNAWAN**

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**M.A. (HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCES) MAJOR HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**THESIS ADVISOR: ORATAI RAUYAJIN, .M.A., DR., P.H.,  
SAWACON PERAPUN, M.S., YOTHIN SAWANGDEE, PH.D.,**

**ABSTRACT**

The Purpose of this study is to investigate the underlying factors determining unsafe induced abortion. This purposive study used a sample comprising 10 rural women who underwent unsafe induced abortion and two traditional healers who provided induced abortion services in the East Java Province. A qualitative research methodology was employed and data were collected by observation and in-depth interview. It was conducted from August to November 2003. Content and linguistic analyses were performed to facilitate communication the process and underlying factors for unsafe induced abortion.

Result revealed that decision making for performing induced abortion was influenced by several underlying factors either internal such as fear of legal persecution, fear of social stigmatization and socio-demographic (age, income, occupation, marital status and the number of children) or external such as gender inequity and occupation barriers. Moreover, in choosing induced abortion, the provider was influenced by several underlying factors as well both internal and external. The former, such as fear of legal persecution, fear of social stigmatization, traditional beliefs in efficiency of traditional methods on induced abortion, and socio-demographic (education and economic status). The latter, such as availability of authorized facilities and induced abortion providers, socio-cultural factors: gender inequality and religiosity, affordability, accessibility to health, family planning and information services and accessibility to safe abortion services. None of these factors did influence women single-handedly, but it inter-influenced one Another.

Based on the findings, several recommendations are made in order to prevent and reduce unsafe induced abortion. These recommendations include campaigning to revise abortion policy, conducting gender training in the villages, campaigning for regulation to protect female laborers to ensure women's right or women's reproductive right, lastly, to provide more information about women's reproductive health in the villages to improve women reproductive health education.

**KEY WORDS: UNDERLYING FACTORS/UNSAFE INDUCED ABORTION/  
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