ADOLESCENT ACQUAINTANCE RAPE SURVIVORS’ EXPERIENCE OF UNWANTED PREGNANCY, A STUDY OF PERCEPTION, DECISION MAKING, EFFECTS, AND WOMEN’S STRATEGIES IN YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to explore adolescent acquaintance rape survivors’ experiences of unwanted pregnancy, to bring up the ways they look at themselves, give meaning to unwanted pregnancy, investigate factors influencing the decision making, effects, and the strategies used to handle their problem. Data were collected by observation and in-depth interview employing a qualitative study with a feminist approach. Twelve adolescent acquaintance rape survivors with unwanted pregnancy in Yogyakarta were recruited purposively.

Results revealed that survivors perceived unwanted pregnancy outside marriage as something bad, sinful, bringing a bad reputation to the family, and a symbol of loss virginity. Positive meanings were perceived as a reason for getting married and a gift or temptation from God. In the decision making processes women’s voices and needs were not involved. Patriarchal culture limits women’s ability to make decisions, continue studies, and get a job. The decision was influenced by several factors including religion, family background, socio-economic status, education, law and possible persecution, as well as the length of survivor’s pregnancies.

Survivors have to endure several effects: psychological, physical, economic, and social stigma. They have several strategies to endure the effects of their pregnancies with the help from their families, society, and NGOs who work on the issues of violence against women.

Based on the findings, several recommendations are made including conducting gender sensitivity training, involving women in the decision making process, providing an accessible health service system for rape survivors with unwanted pregnancy, conducting programs about reproductive health, and campaigning for regulation to protect women’s rights and women’s reproductive rights.

KEY WORDS: ADOLESCENCE/ ACQUAINTANCE RAPE SURVIVORS/ DECISION MAKING/ EFFECTS/STRATEGIES

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