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**FACTORS AFFECTING PREGNANCY TERMINATION PRACTICE IN
CONTEMPORARY VIETNAM: A CASE STUDY IN HOCHIMINH CITY**

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Thesis title Factors Affecting Pregnancy Termination Practice In Contemporary Vietnam: A Case Study In Hochiminh City

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ABSTRACT

Pregnancy termination in view of Hochiminh women is a reproductive manipulation related to the health, social and economic situation.

Hochiminh city in the Southern Vietnam is one of the three biggest cities has the highest rate of pregnancy termination. In 1993, there was 145,033 women terminated their pregnancy and pregnancy termination ratio was 180 per 100 births. The large number of women practiced pregnancy termination point out the problem of contraceptive use and women's health as the reasons.

The aim of the study is to reveal the socio-economic, demographic differentials among married women practicing pregnancy termination in Hochiminh city, and to analyze the socio-cultural factors such as desire for no more children, contraceptive practice, and familial support that motivating women practicing pregnancy termination. The sample of 400 married women in reproductive age were interviewed by using structured questionnaire from 15 September to 30 October, 1995, in Department of Family Planning of TuDu Ob/Gyn hospital, Hochiminh city, Vietnam .

The findings showed that two types of pregnancy termination have been practiced by Hochiminh women, there are induced abortion and menstrual regulation. The average age of women was 29.7 years. Most of older women using menstrual regulation while most of younger women practicing induced abortion. Three-fourths of them had a secondary education level and above. The educational level of women using menstrual regulation was higher than women using induced abortion. More than three-fourths of women were economically working at the time survey. About 61 percent of those were in low and moderate income classes. In average each woman has 1.6 living

children. For type of occupation, number of living children, religion and monthly income. It was found that there is no much different between women using induced abortion and menstrual regulation.

In terms of past pregnancy termination experience, more than one-third of women had at least one prior pregnancy termination. In average, each woman had 1.5 pregnancy terminations.

There was association between desire for no more children and pregnancy termination. Women with desire for no more children were likely to use pregnancy termination than women with desire for more children.

Women who used contraceptive irregular were likely to use menstrual regulation where as women who used contraceptive regular (but used ineffective method or used effective method incorrectly) were likely to use induced abortion.

For women with secondary education level and under, those who used no contraceptive and ever experienced with prior menstrual regulation were likely to use it again than the others.

Women who have the husband's support related to pregnancy termination were more likely to use it than those who did not have it.

The substantial proportion of women with desire for no more children used pregnancy termination as well as the high proportion of women who are contraceptive non users and contraceptive failure users indicate the limitations of family planning programme. Recommendations are made for improving the function of family planning programme that is improving the mass media on pregnancy termination, promoting the effective modern methods and pregnancy counselling to every body.