



A STUDY ON THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF ILLEGAL ABORTION: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO POLONNARUWA DISTRICT

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This research is concerned with the impacts of illegal abortion of Sri Lankan society. With the change of organic society to anomic society, people have experienced many deviant behaviors. Illegal abortion is one of these deviant behaviors. It causes many side effects and sometimes result can be immediate death. The research problem was that the way illegal abortion impact upon the Sri Lankan society. The main objective of the research was to explore the effects of the illegal abortions. And to find out the methods used by the respondents for abortion. In 2013, 41 illegal abortions were reported in Sri Lanka. Out of these the maximum numbers of 10 cases were reported in the Polonnaruwa District. Therefore, Polonnaruwa was selected as the research area. The data were gathered using in - depth interviews and questionnaire. Major findings of this study were 80% of respondents who had abortion experiences were married women. In addition to that lack of education, poverty, anti unaccepted sexual behaviors was associated with the problem. Those abortions had been carried out using by various methods of folk medicine. Such as herbal plants, poisons etc. The findings revealed that, there were many effects of abortion such as risk of fertility, uncertainty of ovum cancer and breast cancer and irregular menstruation. On the other hand, two of the responders never got married due to the experience they had on abortion. In order to resolve this problem, prevalent laws regarding the illegal abortion should be changed as required of the modern society.

Keywords: *sexual life, effects, deviant behavior, abortion, folk medicine*