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Eugene Resto

SOC 305

Prof. Jodie Lawston

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Abstract

Abortion is a social issue facing the current society. A consensus has not yet been reached on whether abortion should, or should not, be legalized. Some groups say it is legal, others argue of its illegality while others have mixed reactions on the issue. This paper seeks to investigate the effects of abortion on the aborted women's life and general social life, social perceptions on the issue, experts' opinion on the problem, an alternative solution to the problem and the author's opinion on the subject matter.

Statement of the problem

Abortion is legal in United States but it is limited to various individual states which establish "trigger laws" which make abortion illegal. Six states already passed the "trigger laws" and three others are on the move to establish the same. This implies that abortion will be a crime in these states. Many debates have been conducted concerning abortion on whether it should be legalized or criminalized and apply across the board (Johnson, Kismodi, Dragoman & Temmerman, 2013). There have not been successfully enacted laws which can universally apply in the entire United States concerning abortion. Many societies have regarded abortion a crime which should not be legalized whatsoever. This is because it implies taking away life of a person, though unborn but actually existing. The problem arises when the government still advocates for what the society regards criminal. Many ladies have been involved in abortion activities. However, this paper focuses on abortion among women.

Effects of Abortion among Women

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court passed laws meant to legalize abortion based on the premise that the modern abortion practices were “safer”. However, the society will always perceive it as a social vice. National statistics have indicated that 10% of the women involved in abortion face pregnancy complications such as infections, excessive bleeding, perforation of the uterus, convulsions, cervical injury and endotoxic shock. Some of the effects of these complications can be treated while others cause permanent problems on the victim such as becoming sterile. Other women abort simply because they are not ready for pregnancy (Johnson, Kismodi, Dragoman & Temmerman, 2013).

Abortion causes psychological problems to women involved in abortion, usually negative mental state. However, researchers have identified relief as the only positive emotion after abortion. Many women encounter emotional paralysis after abortion majorly thinking about how they survived the ordeal. There exist feelings of guilt, nervous disorders, sleep disturbances as well as regrets about their decision to abort. These feelings take quite a long time to heal and thus psychologically tormenting the ladies. Researchers have found that 10% of women who abort experience serious psychiatric complications (Coleman, Coyle, Shuping & Rue, 2009).

There has been a sexual problem with aborted women that sexual dysfunctions have occurred among these women. These problems include reduced sexual pleasure and increased pain during intercourse. 33% of aborted women start longing for a next pregnancy in order to compensate for an earlier lost pregnancy. The problem here arises when the occasions which pressurized the woman to have the previous abortion are still eminent and again gets the feeling

to abort once again. In case of another abortion, the mother may die as a result of previous effects of the first abortion (Dragoman, Sheldon, Quresh., Blum, Winikoff & Ganatra, 2014).

Abortion also affects social life of the aborted woman. In most cases, if the abortion was done devoid of any complications based on the woman's unwillingness not to give birth, the society will always perceive her as a "killer" of an unborn baby. Many people may avoid her and this induces negative feeling of guiltiness in her such that she does not feel fit in such a society. There also exists a feeling of jealousy within the aborted woman when she sees other women being happy with their children. This feeling is even escalated when an aborted woman becomes sterile in the process abortion since she is convinced she cannot get a child for herself. At this point, the society will not trust her with their children since they feel insecure that she can do the unthinkable such as killing another woman's child out of mere jealous.

Mixed opinions have existed among different members of society, those who say it should be allowed completely, allowed at specific situations while others advocating for its total ban. Recent studies have gathered public opinion about abortion and found out that 26% of Americans support legalization of abortion, 56% arguing its legalization under specific circumstances while 17% advocating for its declaration as an illegal practice. If the government decides to go the majority's way, then abortion should only be allowed if the pregnancy develops complications poses danger to the life of the mother. Many organizations have risen to fight abortion in the societies (Fortney & Leong, 2009).

In order to reduce the number of abortions, the government should pass laws which restrict individuals from pregnancies when they are not ready otherwise stringent consequences

punishments are faced by the aborted women. The problem with this move is that it is difficult for the government to monitor pregnancies since some women may undertake the abortion privately especially via private clinics and purchasing abortion pills and partake the abortion at home as opposed to moving to private hospitals (Coleman, 2007).

Conclusion

Abortion is a social issue which has drawn social attention all over the world. Those who advocate for abortion argue that the unborn child has not yet recognized as a human being with no right to life under the law. However, it should be understood that life starts after fertilization. The unborn child is an individual who should be granted rights just like any other person. Therefore, there is need for the government to make abortion a crime, punishable under law and just be allowed under certain circumstances.

References

Coleman E. (2007). *Creating a Sexually healthier World through Effective Public Policy*:
International Journal of Sexual Health – Taylor & Francis

The author of this paper focuses on creating a sexually healthier world. It encompasses sexually responsible behaviors as well as creating better climates for discussions of sexuality, increasing access to information and education about sexuality, development of prevention strategies and access to comprehensive healthcare services. All these activities aim at discouraging irresponsible sexual behavior which leads to unwanted pregnancies and eventually abortion.

Coleman P., Coyle C., Shuping M. & Rue V. (2009). *Induced Abortion and Anxiety, Mood, and Substance Abuse Disorders: Isolating the Effects of Abortion in the National Comorbidity Survey*: Journal of Psychiatric Research

The authors of this study intended to examine the association between abortion and anxiety, mood and substance abuse disorders using a nationally representative US sample. Abortion was found to be related to an increased risk for a variety of mental health problems.

Dragoman M., Sheldon W., Qureshi Z., Blum J., Winikoff B. & Ganatra B. (2014). *Overview of Abortion Cases with Severe Maternal Outcomes in the WHO Multicountry Survey on Maternal and Newborn Health: A Descriptive Analysis*

The authors seek to summarize the individual and institutional characteristics of abortion-related severe maternal outcomes reported at health facilities. The study reveals that some abortions develop complications and some women experience severe maternal outcomes, maternal near miss and maternal death.

Fortney J. & Leong M. (2009). *Saving Mother's Lives: Programs that Work*. Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology – journals.lww.com

The authors identify that maternal mortality is a complex problem which requires complex responses. Nevertheless, every intervention must work through one of three pathways; preventing pregnancy, preventing complications or preventing death when obstetric complications occur.

Johnson B., Kismodi E, Dragoman M. & Temmerman M. (2013). *Conscientious Objection to the Provision of Reproductive Healthcare*: International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics

The authors are against the advocates of abortion based on the premise of safe abortion as a result of advances in scientific evidence, technologies and human rights rationale.

According to this paper, governments should therefore create barriers to restrict health care providers on how to invoke conscientious objection without jeopardizing women's access to safe abortion services.



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