Reviewer's report

Title: Induced abortion and effecting factors in Souteast Anatolian project region, Turkey: a cross sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 30 April 2004

Reviewer: Vibeke Rasch

Reviewer’s report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?

Yes

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?

Underreporting of induced abortion is a well known phenomenon and I am afraid that this also a problem in the present study. An assumption which is supported by the fact that the number of lifetime abortions per woman was found to be 9 per 100 pregnancy in comparison with 18,2 reported by TDHS. The difference may not only be due to the fact stated by the authors that “the general features and health conditions of the Southeast Anatolian Region is worse than the East Anatolian Region”.

Further by only including ever married women, the authors are neglecting a vulnerable group of single women who may also opt for induced abortion in case of an unwanted pregnancy. If the authors really wanted to describe factors affecting induced abortion they should have been more focused in their study design and considered using a hospital based study, where women who were having induced abortion were included.

The authors describe their criteria for sampling, which to me is not quite clear with given the purpose of the study. They end up with a rather small sample of 114 women having ever had an induced abortion. Again another approach may have resulted in a larger study sample and thus more convincing results.

Regarding the statistical analyses, the authors could have considered using a nested case control design, where cases were women ever having had induced abortion in comparison with women never having had induced abortion. Such results would have been easier to interpretate than the presented p values. Further I have a little problem with the logistic regression analysis, I am missing information about the dependant variable and which co-variables there were included in the analyses and the rationales for why they were chosen.

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?

See above

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

I have problems with the fact that authors are referring to literature from many different countries e.g. Singapore, Nigeria, Sweden and Denmark, which all are countries which differ distinct from Turkey. I feel that the results are not discussed in the right context. I am rather sure that factors associated with abortion differs between e.g. Scandinavia and Turkey and also between Turkey and Singapore and Nigeria.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?

In the abstract the authors state that “life-time induced abortions were 4.1 times more in working women. From the result section and tables it is read that abortion is 4.1 times more prevalent among unemployed women.

7. Is the writing acceptable?

Further editing is needed.

Recommendations

Due to the above stated weaknesses I cannot recommend that the paper is published.