ABORTION: MEDICAL, SOCIAL, AND BIOETHICAL ASPECTS (BASED ON STATISTICAL ANALYSIS)

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Abstract

Abortion is an essential component of reproductive health, and its safety and accessibility directly affect women's health outcomes. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the types of abortion, clinical aspects, complications, and bioethical issues, supported by global statistical data.

Keywords

abortion, safe abortion, reproductive health, maternal mortality, WHO, statistics

Introduction

The issue of abortion remains a critical concern in global healthcare systems. According to World Health Organization:

- Approximately 73 million abortions occur annually

- Around 45% are unsafe abortions

- Unsafe abortions result in approximately 39,000 maternal deaths each year

These figures highlight the importance of ensuring safe abortion services.

Global Epidemiology of Abortion

Worldwide Indicators

According to the Guttmacher Institute:

- The global abortion rate among women aged 15–49 is:

39 abortions per 1,000 women

- In developing countries:

37–44 per 1,000 women

- In developed countries:

27 per 1,000 women

Regional Distribution

- Africa: over 60% of abortions are unsafe

- Asia: highest total number (~35 million per year)

- Europe: high rate of safe abortions

Types of Abortion and Effectiveness (Statistical Analysis)

Medical Abortion

- Effectiveness: 95–98%

- Complication rate: 2–5%

- Need for additional intervention: <3%

Vacuum Aspiration

- Effectiveness: ~99%

- Complication rate: <1%

- One of the safest surgical methods

Dilatation and Curettage (D&C)

- Less commonly used today

- Higher complication rate (3–5%)

Abortion and Maternal Mortality

According to the World Health Organization:

- 8–13% of maternal deaths are associated with abortion

- Mortality rates from unsafe abortion:

✓ Developed countries: <1 death per 100,000 procedures

✓ Developing countries: 220 deaths per 100,000 procedures

This disparity reflects differences in healthcare systems.

Complications of Abortion (Scientific Analysis)

Early Complications

✓ Hemorrhage: 1–10%

✓ Infection: <5%

✓ Uterine perforation: 0.1–0.5%

Late Complications

✓ Infertility: 1–3%

✓ Asherman syndrome: rare but clinically significant

✓ Increased risk of recurrent miscarriage: 1.5–2 times

Social Determinants of Abortion

According to the United Nations Population Fund:

Main causes of abortion:

✓ 40% — lack of access to contraception

✓ 30% — economic factors

✓ 20% — unintended pregnancy

✓ 10% — medical indications

Relationship Between Contraception and Abortion

Statistical analyses show that:

✓ In countries with widespread contraceptive use, abortion rates decrease by 30–50%

✓ Family planning programs:

✧ Prevent approximately 70,000 maternal deaths annually

Bioethical and Legal Aspects (Global Perspective)

Globally:

➢ 60% of countries allow abortion legally

➢ 25% allow it under certain restrictions

➢ 15% prohibit it strictly

These legal differences directly affect the rate of unsafe abortions.

Context of Uzbekistan (General Overview)

In Uzbekistan:

◆ Abortion is legal (on request up to 12 weeks)

◆ Safe medical services are available

◆ In recent years:

✓ Contraceptive use has increased

✓ Abortion rates have gradually declined

Conclusion

Statistical evidence suggests that eliminating abortion entirely is unrealistic; instead, ensuring its safety is a global health priority. Through safe abortion services, contraception, and reproductive education:

✓ Maternal mortality decreases

✓ Complications are reduced

✓ Public health outcomes improve

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