



REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES- FEMALE BODIES, MALE DECISIONS: A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN

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Abstract

This paper is part of a larger research which investigates pregnancy losses in Karachi for the award of doctoral degree in the discipline of Women's Studies and is based on 250 women's narratives. The research design, based on the implementation of a questionnaire and in-depth case studies, allowed data collection on various aspects of pregnancy losses. As reproductive choices of women are significantly juxtaposed in any discourse on pregnancy losses, therefore a query about contraception and abortion, though asked discreetly and cautiously, did appear as a separate section in the questionnaire and in women's narratives. In this paper, I present my findings along with the debate on reproductive choices which is a major part of family planning or contraceptive use. The paper has two sections: section one looks at the pros and cons of the debate, while section two brings to the fore opinions of real women drawn from self-narrated life experiences in face-to-face interviews by respondents or my research participants. The paper ends with concluding observations.

Keywords

Reproductive choices, pregnancy losses, abortion, abortion debate, male authority, fatwa, Islam and family planning