

#### UNIDAD EDUCATIVA PARTICULAR JAVIER **BACHILLERATO EN CIENCIAS**

#### MONOGRAPH

"Abortion in Ecuador: normative aspects, current legal and religious. Traumas, treatments and testimonies."

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#### **GRATTITUDE**

First, I want to thank God who gave me the capacity of learning, me with my family who have always inculcated responsibility, respect, solidary, and specially faith and love for God. I appreciate my parents for being my support all these years through high school and life and for teaching me that I never have to give up. In addition, I want to thank all of my friends, who have been my social and mental support, for being in my life encouraging me. Without all of them, I could never have done through high school and life, which everyday it is getting harder than the day before. And to finish, I want to thank my teachers for having giving me the knowledge necessary to do this work in the right way and for been guides of my academic and spiritual formation, motivating me to always be more to serve better.



#### **SUMMARY**

In the present monograph, the part of an experimental work of how the social issue of abortion has progressed according to the passing of the years is explained. There are many ideologies on the part of all human beings, they can be religious or not, and that does not prevent abortions from being carried out. This has been causing the loss of life of the women who perform it and causing them to obtain physical and psychological traumas. However, this controversy has influenced so much over the years, that people are already considering abortion as an option for all doing so, a better future of the country, and if possible, of humanity.

That is why the current governments of our country have intervened in this social dilemma, the Ecuadorian people need to decrease the mortality of women and train doctors who are not mediocre so that they do not perform a bad execution of an abortion, this way a life is saved more. Therefore, Ecuador should give an opening to sexual education in all schools, privates or the ones which belong to the government, of the country, so then they have training through the subject, become educated and prevent unwanted events by citizens, especially among teens and teenagers.

Finally, it can be taken into account how the movements that women have made, have influenced the legalization of abortion. This, although it may not seem like it, has helped the woman a lot in the rights over her body, it has also changed the ideology of women and



towards women on the part of men, they are no longer considered as useful for the home, not that they have come to have important positions in the world. As the female gender has come to have a prosperity in the world and things are not the same as before and have almost the same equality as men, but the fight is still ongoing.



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#### INTRODUCTION

The following monograph called "Abortion in Ecuador: normative aspects, current legal and religious. Traumas, treatments and testimonies." Is a survey about the abortion that occurs in our beloved country? The purpose of this monograph is to get people to know the history of the progress of women's rights over their bodies, especially abortion. The second cause of maternal death worldwide is caused by miscarriages abortion, it is very common to find women in our country who are looking for an abortion but do not have a safe option to do so.

As time has passed, abortion remains a globally refuted subject between men and women, which has become a case of much controversy in our society.

In this monograph, we analized the laws in Ecuador about this theme, norms that support it them and others that prohibit it, the impact that generates in our beliefs, the risks that it generates and testimonies from experienced women, among other aspects. There was a time when the assembly members approved the new project called New Constitution. The discussion generated in the assembly acquired an importance that has never been seen in Ecuador, although they have been provoked by means of communication; this left an open door of hope and future, so that decriminalization of abortion can be debated.

I chose this subject because it has been something refuted for many years and still we do not reach an agreement. In our country, women are penalized for voluntarily ending their pregnancy, when we have the right over our bodies and I do not agree that Ecuador lo sanctions it because the pregnancy origin could have many reasons, whether it is positive or negative.

However, we also have to look the bright side of the story, consider that you are taking someone's innocent life, because it goes away the moral, religious beliefs and what they have instilled in us over the years.

For this study, searches and interviews will be realized; percentage rates will be analyzed in women who have voluntarily aborted and women's cases that have been penalized for it.



#### **CHAPTER I**

#### **Abortion in Ecuador**

#### 1.1 Background

The issue of the abortion has have a great history in our country, there are reasons in which the government in turn, they have had to debate about this situation and we still do not reach an agreement between the absolute rights over women's bodies.

In the year 2005, Mister Fernando Rosero, who was ex-deputy from PRL. He was declared martyrized by the PAE, must known as "pastilla del dia despues", because the individual wanted to be father, and he could not achieve it, because his partner made use of that pill, making like this a tribune, where the judges on duty opted for the probation of PAE.

The author informs us "sensationalist representations that have used fear to raise people have prevailed" (Castello, 2008). This means that the protestants groups in Ecuador have taken a new horror form to be listened and recognize. A women who has a voice in a third world country it is very difficult, due to the mentality of the country that is still as macho, not like before, but it does still exist, and not just referring to men, if not that women also do not fight for their voice.



In 2006, there was much controversy surrounding the approval of the New Organic Law, the groups who represented made a strong opposition and they emphasized sexual health and reproductive health, which led the authorities to create a health advisory commission, which proposed that there will not be a type of sexual education.

In July 24 / year 2008. The assembly members approved the new project called New Constitution. The discussion generated in the assembly acquired an importance that has never been seen in Ecuador, although they have been provoked by means of communication; this left an open door of hope and future, so that decriminalization of abortion can be debated.

#### 1.1.1 Laws that support the situation and those that prohibits it

Unlike the processes carried out in the 1998's Constitutional Assembly. The abortion subject has been present in the debates generated by the current Constituent Assembly, but we must recognize that 2008's Assembly, does not start the discussion of the subject nor are the sectors opposed to abortion's legalization the actors in this political field. Because we have to see it in the least favorable way of how abortion have been camping in the last years in Ecuador.

The author highlights that:



The discussion around the abortion's decriminalization in Ecuador came back to light from the proposal presented in November 2005 by the deputy, Myrian Garces. A law reform was proposeto sexual exploitation's crimes of minors and it was contemplate to expand the abortion's causes for all cases of rape. (Castello, 2008) p. 20)

What Paula Castello wants us to say, is that the deputy came up with abortion subject, after having spent long years of silence, without noticing this issue. She made the opening that if women are a victims of rape, these individuals can commit abortion.

As the Article 447 of the penal code of the Ecuadorian constitution "to avoid a danger to the health or life's mom... if the pregnancy comes from an act of rape or violation committed is an idiot or demented women". This means that it is allowed to abort, only if the individual have been victim of rape.

In Ecuador, any other type of abortion it is absolutely prohibit, which this means that women's rights in our country, are not fully met.

#### 1.1.1.1 Physical and psychological risks.

The fact that abortion cannot be made by a legal and secure form, women have no other option than realize miscarried abortions, risking their lifes, putting them in danger; without mentioning that the miscarried abortion is the second most common maternal death in the

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citizens of this country. They resort to this method and risk their own lifes to be able to perform abortion.

Pregnancy in teenagers can be very difficult emotionally. We live in a society and a country, especially the city, where everything is criticize, it does not matter if hoy many ethic thing have you made, they will always se and remember when you failed. That is why we have to dedicate them our support, security and trust to all teenager, so later they will not have psychological traumas. We must provide comprehensive assistance to the future parents.

#### 1.2 Causes

One of the most common causes of pregnancy in teenagers between 10-13 years old is because they start to lose interest in their parents and they start new friendships with individuals of the opposite sex and they do not control their impulses, they are much worried about their physical appearance and their body changes.

Teenagers between 14-16 years old have fully completed their development; according to Issler (2001) is the period of maximum relationship with their peers. The time where all their hormones get upset, activating teenager's bodies. They also assume superiority that generally are provocateurs of danger.

Adolescence between 17-19 years, which is considerate as the final stage, there are no more physical changes and they start to accept their body image just as it is. They give more



importance to intimate relationships, they start to value for themselves to have more maturity and set real vocational goals in their lifes.

#### **CHAPTER II**

#### Normative aspects and religious

#### 2.1 Traumas obtained by the procedure and infertility risks.

Not all the process that women experience is easy to understand, much less to overcome, that is why it is very important to talk about how women feel due to this scary procedure and the amount of risk of infertility that women are vulnerable in this procedure.

As usual women are already sensitive to some events of everyday thing that show us in life, so when one of us suffer during this psychological procedure that abort leaves us, we tend to suffer serious physical and psychological injuries. One of them is known as "syndrome postaborto" (SPA) regrettably it is not easy the statistical elaboration of data off women who had been psychologically affected by this. Since there are hardly systematic evaluations of patients after the abortion and because generally women who have had an abortion are usually not conducive to continuing to interact with the doctor who endorsed the abortion, much less want to talk about it.

The author emphasizes that:



One percent of the sample of 442 patients reported having suffered post-traumatic stress disorder. If we apply this percentage to the 77,125 induced abortions declared in our country in the year 2002 or to the 533 declared in Navarre that same year we have that at least 771.25 women can suffer this serious disorder every year in Spain and 5.3 in our community. (Gomez Lavin, 2002, p.1)

In conclusion, we are very likely to have this psychological traumas forever, without mentioning all the risks that the women run if they have had an abortion where someone who does not have experience and/or have the right equipment,. That women can not pay for a good abortion or that the abortion is allowed in the country then it would have to do it in a more dangerous way.

#### 2.1.1 Consequences.

Women are always surrounded by danger. We cannot go out to any place of home without someone telling us what we care for and being judicious because we can suffer any kind of danger. That is why the abortion does not stay behind and there are plenty consequences about it.

There are cases of women who have been traumatized for life by a miscarriage and have done it because, as in our country, it is not allowed, they have gone to perform them in a place of death. Some of them are



- Depressing symptoms
- Guilty feeling
- Recurring nightmares about lost, desperate, mutilated or dead children
- Rejection of stimuli or situations that remember abortion
- Synthetic alterations related to emotions caused by abortion: sexual disorders, anorexia and other eating disorders; drug abuse or alcohol abuse; social isolation and lack of interest and attention for the usual tasks and obligations; sudden anger and outbursts of anger; acceptance of abusive interpersonal relationships; gestures or attempts autolytic.

#### 2.2 Abortion impact in the different beliefs

Deepening more in this debated topic, arise the religious opinions, (catholic, evangelical, mormonic, etc) that is much discussed reason why during many years it has been considered a mortal sin the fact to realize an abortion. Since you are removing someone else's life this as faithful believers of God, is one of the most inhuman acts that the human being can commit; without mentioning that, it is very bad seen by the whole community and society.

It is like that how we see different religions all around the planet is the complexity and speed in which they can and adapts to the new political scenarios make us create new



analyzes and strategies, making like that more choices arise about what could be done when a women wants to have an abortion. Something very important to be able to understand beliefs, especially religious ones, is to differentiate the different ways in which actors and discourses operate politically in contemporary societies.

#### 2.2.2 Religious.

Involving us more towards the root of this issue, about the choices, there was a time when the Catholic Church supported the construction of gender and sexuality as long as the State supported that decision, as well as decided to allow this to happen, also wanted to do the same with abortion. As it is mentioned by Juan Marco Vaggione (2006) "the state based its legislation on the Catholic doctrine giving legal strength to what was sustained by the church" (p. 2). He meant that the government allowed to comment and be able to contribute about the decisions that were going to be made to the Catholic Church. Then as a national family and a Catholic family considered as part of a reality, whatever decision they made, knowing that it was going to make some modification on Catholic principles was considered an attack on the country.

The influence that the Church had on the people made the ideology change little by little, which in the year 2016 Pope Francis allowed all the parents of any Catholic church to forgive this penalty that is carried out when committing the abortion.



#### 2.2.3 Social-cultural ethics.

As we know, not every people in the world are catholic, which means that we must take into account the opinion of people who do not believe that abortion is a bad thing, if not an option more than women decide, since it is our body where the whole process happens. As the author tells us:

The ideal of modernity that diagnosed the gradual privatization and / or disappearance of religion can only be thought of as true in some European countries. This did not imply the weakening of the religious, which remains a fundamental dimension with important changes. (Vaggione, 2006, p.9)

Juan Marco Vaggione refers to the fact that with so much modernity and globalization that the planet Earth has had, there has not yet been a radical change in the ideology of the people. Even though there are people who are believers, they still see abortion as something bad maybe it is because they believe it as an act of humanity. However, we have to be aware that the world has come and one of the things we have not progressed to 100% is the right of the decisions that women make about our body. Which should be changed immediately because it is impossible that even in the XXI century there are still people who think that carrying out an abortion is a bad thing at all.



#### **CHAPTER III**

#### Treatments and testimonies

### Abortion in Ecuador

67 respuestas

#### choose your age

67 respuestas

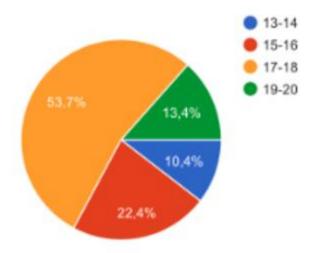


Figure 1.



In this survey, 53,7% of 70' people are 17-18 years old, 22,4% are 15-16 years old, 13,4% are 19-20 years old and 10.4% are 13-14 years old. This graphic will help us to have an idea of the age that women and men begin to relate to the abortion's issue. We can see how the age of 17 and 18 years old predominates here; it is very common to see teenagers having this kind of experiences since they are sexually active.

We will see many different points of view, not everybody in favor about abortion, some of them don not really care and others will think that this will make a change in people's ideology, especially, Ecuadorians.



#### 3.1 Dangerous treatment realized in teenagers and women

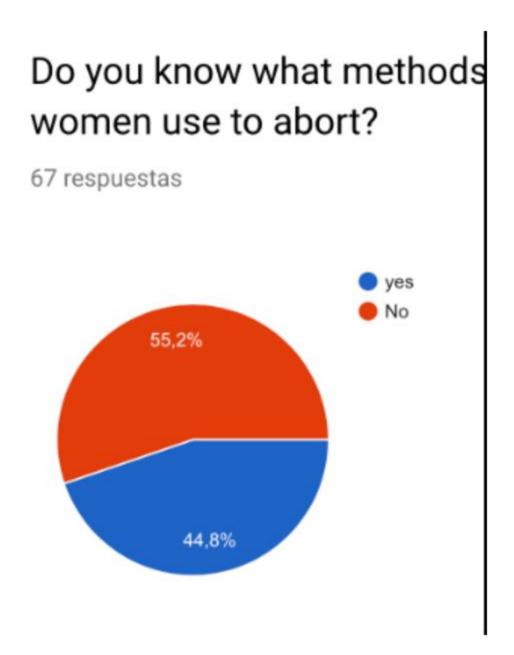


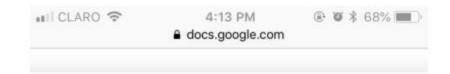
Figure 2.

It is very dangerous that today's adolescents do not know the safe way to abort, which is with a doctor. But that does not mean they do not know how, there will always be a solution for everything.

As we see in this graphic, 55.2% affirm that they do not know what methods are used to abort, whether safe or dangerous, it is a very high percentage, but the people who do know



what methods women use, which are 44.8%, say the opposite. There may be several options for them to know how some women abort.



### Are you in favor or against abortion?

66 respuestas

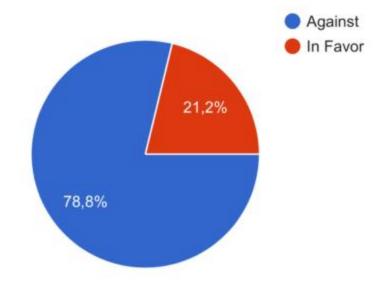


Figure 3.

Finally we have arrived at the most interesting and debated part of the whole monograph, and is that, in fact, you are in favor of abortion?



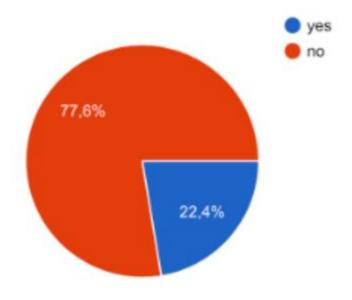
The 78.8% of people are abortion, because they consider that the life of the fetus that is lodged in the womb of said woman it is more important than the future of themselves, where they can form a better life for future children and family next to your home.

As we see in the graphic, the 21.2% said that they are in favor of abortion, these are people with opened mind, who think beyond the social system. These type of people used to be the ones who see all the things in a different way, find the same answer but with a different way to do it, but at the end, it will get to the same answer.

#### 3.2 People's testimonies that have been through this situation

## Do you know anyone close who have passed this situation?

67 respuestas



20

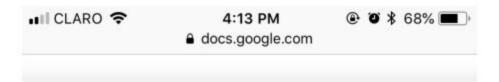
Figure 4.



Teenagers at this age are vulnerable in anything, be it drugs, sex or social rejection. That is why we must not leave aside the option that they have witnessed acts like this, abortion. We can see how 77.6% of 67 teenagers have not heard about someone close to them or even pass them by themselves, however 22.4% do know someone who have passed this situation, so what we should think about is how did they help their friend to spend this moment? Does she was left with some psychological or physical trauma?

Without a doubt, the way in which they affirm how a woman close to them has gone through an abortion leaves us with the curiosity of how they have done it. We do not know if it was safe, if a doctor did it illegally or went to some place of bad death to see if luck was served to perform what she wanted to do with her body.





# If you got pregnant by any circumstance, would you abort?

66 respuestas

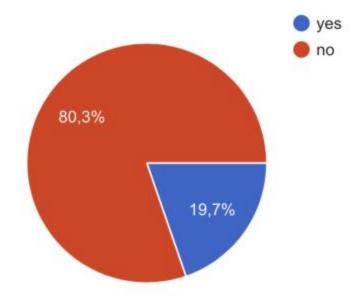


Figure 5.

We must emphasize and take much into account that not everyone has the same ideology and each person is responsible for their actions. Nobody obliges anyone to do anything of your own will, that's why we will see the percentage of women, of whom they would abort if you would get pregnant for any circumstance, be it rape, accuse, incest, etc.



As we see in the graphic, 80.3% affirm that they would not abort regardless of the cause of the pregnancy. I think that the people who answered the survey did not think at all how much it would affect their future to have a baby at this age, so they continue studying and it will be more difficult to finish with his studies. They can also be judged by relatives, friends and strangers, due to the fact that they had a baby out of wedlock.

On the other hand, 19.7% affirm that if they would abort, even if they are few, they think a lot about their future. I consider that people who are willing to abort are very brave, and not everyone would be able to make such a decision, it takes a lot of courage. People willing to abort have a very different way of thinking, they were raised up in another way, in the way that their actions are more liberal, there are facts where they affirm that depending on the country you can see if you are a more liberal or conservative person. For example, in Argentina there is a lot of talk about abortion, women are currently in a fight with the government in power so that abortion can be legalized, and it would be the first Latin American country to have the honor to be.

Ecuador is far from that happening, we have the habit of having a very closed mind, and that will never change if we do not do it ourselves and teach it to future generations. We



also have to take into account that we were all brought up differently, with different mentalities and strict ways of raising ourselves.

I think that we as Ecuadorians, for being an underdeveloped country, there is still that mentality that a happy family is a large family, when a truly happy family is where you can create a home, be it with one or two children or more up to a family where only your partner and you are, where you can transmit all the good values to your family. In general, the people who have enough children are those of limited resources, that even they can not maintain, and if they did the legal abortion, they would have the option of not having the baby and not causing overpopulation and more poverty.



#### CONCLUSIONS

After a long investigation on the subject and results of the applied survey. It is concluded that:

- In the religious part, it has been concluded that the church has not accepted the legalization of abortion nor that this act ceases to be an unforgivable sin.
- It has been concluded that the authorities of the country do not agree with the legalization of abortion nor it will be accepted by society for at least some long years.
- It is concluded that a legal aspect that has been considered by the authorities of the
  country was, that if a pregnancy was caused by an act of rape, it could be considered
  as a special case and be able to take it to trial.
- As abortion is not allowed, women are in grave danger and are looking for other ways to do it that are not safe.
- It is concluded that 52,2% of 70' people who are 17-18 years old have voted that they affirm they don't know the different ways or option to abort in case of an emergency.
- Woman are very likely to have phycological traumas for the rest of their lives due to the "syndrome postaborto"
- Abortion has been debated in several countries in order that the rate of maternal mortality declines.
- Women who have already had an abortion suffer consequences later, such as depression, recurring nightmares about lost or dead children, also internal guilt too.
- It is known that in the survey, 78,8% of people are against abortion, and the other 21.2% are in favor of it.



It is confirmed that the increase of pregnancy in adolecents from 10 to 13 years old
is due to the lack of interest of parents for their children and begin to start friendship
with the opposite sex to them, and clearly, both have no control of their impulses.

#### RECOMMENDATION

At the end of this investigation, it is recommended:

- That, in the view of the situation of the death of women due to poor performance of abortion, there is an urgent need to train and inform women about the risks that their lives take when executing a bad abortion.
- Encourage adolescent sexual education to avoid unwanted pregnancy on their part.
- Promote the self-esteem of women who suffered from the "syndrome postaborto" so
  that in the future they can overcome this disease. Specially to avoid losses of
  women and decrease the female mortality rate.
- Women must continue to fight, raise their voices, so that governments authorize
  them to make any decision about their bodies without having the fear of being
  imprisoned behind bars.



- Second-rate abortions should not be performed because of the fact that the life of a
  women who just wants to go ahead and have or do the best for the future is in
  danger.
- Seek help and support from others to obtain moral, emotional and psychological support. In this way, women can find inner peace and balance for the rest of their lives without emotional relapse.
- Help women who have some physical and psychological the best of the entire community. Especially in those who lack basic needs and receive no help from anyone.
- Given the situation of mistreatment to women, in this case, rape or violation, take self-defense classes or carry with them pepper gas to be able to defend themselves and run away.
- This social dilemma should be debated as many times as possible, in order to open
  people's mentalities so that they can see beyond the normal and have no limitations.
- That people must know about the use of different contraceptive methods so that they prevent an unwanted pregnancy and save all this situation and concern that is abortion.

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