

THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ABORTION AMONG ROMANIAN ADOLESCENTS. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE INTERVENTION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

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Abstract

Abortion represents a fundamental problem of human society revealing a complex plethora of medical, ethical, political, legal, psychological and social issues. Many adolescents and young women call for abortion in specialized clinics, as a result of unwanted pregnancy. The consequences of abortion among young women are a topic of interest to the researchers and practitioners in various fields. The present paper reviews the main results of a survey that was conducted based on questionnaires. The study focused on the attitude towards abortion among Romanian adolescents. Three hundred and eighty-six high school students filled out four short questionnaires. The data revealed several interesting aspects of the attitude towards abortion among adolescents: a) compared to only 30.2 % of girls, 62.9 % of boys answered Yes to the question "Do you consider that sexual relations in adolescence are a thing as natural as possible?"; b) although the boys tended to express a more positive attitude towards abortion, the difference compared to girls was not significant; c) the boys expressed a more unfavorable attitude toward contraceptive use; d) 55.9 % of boys and 62.05 % of girls indicated that one should not criticize or interfere with the decision of two partners to keep or not keep a pregnancy because they have the right to do whatever they want with their lives; e) over 72 % of boys and 88 % of girls indicated that if adolescents had a closer and more open relationship with parents, teachers and school psychologists, the prevalence of abortion would decrease; f) almost 80 % of boys and over 88% of girls answered Yes to the question: "Do you consider that starting from the 5th-8th grades the adolescents should be subjected to a more intensive education for a healthy sex life?. We also presented some implications for the educational intervention of school psychologists, which

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have to focus on the prevention of unwanted pregnancies among young girls.

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