

Contrasting a model for the study of subjective norms and attitudes towards the request of interruption of pregnancy

Contrastando un modelo para el
estudio de las normas y actitudes
subjetivas ante la solicitud de
interrupción del embarazo

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Abstract

The objective of the present work was to contrast a normative and attitudinal model on abortion. A correlational, cross-sectional and confirmatory work was carried out with a selection of 100 coffee growers, considering their assignment to community health service. A factorial structure was found that explained 56% of the total variance, suggesting the extension of the work to other scenarios and samples.

Keywords

Health, sexuality, pregnancy, attitude, abortion.

Resumen

El objetivo del presente trabajo fue contrastar un modelo normativo y actitudinal sobre el aborto. Se realizó un trabajo correlacional, transversal y confirmatorio con una selección de 100 caficultoras, considerando su asignación al servicio de salud comunitaria. Se encontró una estructura factorial que explica el 56 % de la varianza total, sugiriendo la extensión del trabajo a otros escenarios y muestras.

Palabras clave

Salud, sexualidad, embarazo, actitud, aborto.

Introduction

Under the local development of municipalities with a high percentage of male migrants, villages inhabited by women have built an economic, productive and employment system remunerates do around the coffee growers and other organic products and ecotourism, but the entrepreneurial system has been limited by the birth rate of more than 7 % in localities in central Mexico (Bustos *et al.*, 2020). In this process, family planning policies, as well as reproductive health programs, have focused on the promotion of self-care and the dissemination of violence-free relationships, the background of the prevention of unwanted pregnancy.

Within the framework of health policies, socio-economic and socio-demographic studies have contributed to the design, implementation and evaluation of prevention and care programs for vulnerable, marginalized or excluded groups with regard to the legal interruption of pregnancy, assisted abortion and in some cases uterine curettage as a viable option (Tun, García and Carreón, 2017).

However, sex education strategies have incorporated socioeconomic and demographic variables as indicators of evaluation of public programs (Cabezas *et al.*, 1998). In this way, the causal relationship between sex, age, income, marital status and schooling has been established on the group norm and attitude towards induced abortion which has been defined as the procedure performed to end an unwanted pregnancy practiced by people who they lack the necessary qualifications or practiced in an environment in the minimum conditions of medical safety or both (Briozzo *et al.*, 2002).

Mainly, induced abortion takes place in socioeconomically vulnerable, marginal or excluded places where the younger or adolescent population presents a higher rate compared to the other groups. With respect to knowledge and attitudes towards induced abortive practice, a conservative tendency is observed regarding the responsibility of performing an abortion (Sánchez, Jiménez and Merino, 1999).

In the case of professionals who have made the interruption of a pregnancy, curettage was the most mentioned technique. In this sense, the accumulation of experience in years of residence has been the main determinant (García, 2020). This finding is complemented by knowledge among health professionals considering their sex and disciplines since it influenced the redesign of programs for attention to vulnerable areas.

In the case of the population that has requested the abortive practice, the economic situation and the conjugal or family pressure are determinants of induced abortion. The alcoholic addiction of the couple is in the social plane, the essential cause (Calderón and Alzamora, 2009). Also, if emergency contraception had been practiced initially (Tapia, Villaseñor and Nuño, 2008). In the case of men compared to women, they tend to accept the practice of induced abortion to a lesser extent. Similar finding was established with the age between under 18 and over 29 according to the youth rank of the National Youth Institute (Fernández *et al.*, 2010). This difference was intensified according to the type of work (Lara, 1987).

As the sociodemographic variables determine the attitude, they affect the intention of abortion (Távora and Sacsá, 2008). The incidence of sociodemographic variables on attitude established an indirect relationship with the request for induced abortion (Chávez and Zapata, 2009; López *et al.*, 2001). However, induced abortion is justified by the applicants if the woman is at great health risk. (García, Lara and Goldman 2003). Or, if it is a liberal and progressive act (Salazar, 2007).

Risk behaviors make adolescents more vulnerable at the time of experiencing their first sexual encounters that very likely result in unwanted pregnancies and the consequent search for pregnancy termination. In this sense, dismember the incidence of sex, age, income, marital status and group role on the attitude towards induced abortion reveals that sex is the positive determinant of the group norm and that the educational level negatively affects the attitude (Ramírez, 2000).

Induced abortive practice leads to significant differences between socioeconomic factors. Mainly, between age ranges, income, schooling and marital status. A tendency of attitudinal and psychological descriptive studies is observed in comparison to exploratory or explanatory studies. The state of

knowledge reflects a descriptive prevalence of sociodemographic variables in relation to knowledge, attitudes and behaviors around induced abortion (Galvão *et al.*, 2000).

Psychological studies on induced abortion have shown the causal relationship between sociodemographic variables such as sex, age, schooling, marital status and group norms as determinants of the attitude toward induced abortion, the main psychological cause of the termination of pregnancy (Sánchez *et al.*, 2017).

The state of the art has shown direct relationships between sociodemographic and psychological variables. Direct and indirect causal relationships that could enrich sociodemographic studies related to induced abortion (García, 2017b).

Variables as sex, age, income, education, marital status, group norm and attitude towards induced abortion have been reported from the assumption around which, socioeconomic and demographic variables affect directly, positively and significantly on variables sociocognitive. The establishment of causal relationships will broaden the predictive power of attitudinal models and allow the redesign of sex education and pregnancy interruption programs (García *et al.*, 2016).

The scenario in which the present study was carried out is a municipality with a low human development index, positioned as a magical locality due to its natural and gastronomic attractions, but with a high rate of births in adolescents and young people whose couples immigrate to the United States. United and send remittances, but with the uncertainty of return unless it is forced, they build a new life with a family abroad, taking care of the expenses of their family from the place of origin (Sandoval, García y Bustos, 2016). The importance of family planning policies, birth control programs and prevention strategies for unwanted pregnancies have focused on dissemination in local media and public schools, avoiding the prevailing economic activity of coffee production. Most of the adolescents and young people are employed, even as from girls they learn to sell the product, establishing support networks in terms of caring for the children and the sales point (Carreón *et al.*, 2017).

Therefore, establishing the groups that inhibit or facilitate the request to terminate the pregnancy, as well as the dispositions towards the legal practice of abortive assistance are fundamental to explain the process of entrepreneurship from the representations and the habitus of the coffee farmers with respect to the renunciation momentary or permanent to motherhood and upbringing (García, 2017a).

Precisely, the objective of the present study is to establish the contrast of a model for the study of the attitudes and the subjective rules of coffee growers with respect to the legal interruption of pregnancy.

The theoretical, conceptual and empirical frameworks have emphasized that the socioeconomic condition can determine the solitude of abortion, but also the consulted literature warns that the social pressure, the local norm and the influence of the mother in the decisions of the pregnant woman are prevailing when it considers that their relationship is uncertain, only in the case of a relationship of trust, the request is consulted with the couple (García, 2020). Well, it is to be expected that such socioeconomic, normative and dispositional conditions will be possible to observe in the context and the study sample.

Although the literature reviewed has established the preponderant conditions and situations in which the request for termination of pregnancy is carried out in the face of economic contingencies, social pressure and the desirability of a future work, specific conditions such as entrepreneurial networks between female heads of family, the support among first-time mothers, or the decrease in remittances, oblige coffee producers to carry out strategies that are not always oriented by the process used in the state of knowledge. Therefore, the theoretical relationships and the empirical observations will be different.

A propensity to request assisted abortion was found in low-income women based on a structural model. Research lines are recommended concerning the economic differences in terms of income but depending on the disposition to abortion and entrepreneurship.

In this regard, the objective of this study was to establish the compatibility of a model for the study of the attitudes and subjective norms of coffee growers with respect to the legal interruption of pregnancy.

Are there significant differences between the dimensions reported in the literature with respect to the observations of this study regarding the request for abortion in students of a public university in central Mexico?

The premise that guides this work refers to the fact that norms and attitudes are part of a system of deliberation, planning and cognitive systematization that determines specific actions in specific situations. Consequently, there are no significant differences between the factors reported in the literature with respect to those observed in the present work.

The present work is part of the discipline of Social Work, an area of reproductive and sexual health studies, but includes concepts of the psychology of couple relationships, population sociology and community anthropology.

Method

Design. A non-experimental, exploratory, cross-sectional and correlational study was carried out.

Sample. A non-probabilistic selection of 100 coffee growers from central Mexico was carried out, which declared to be of legal age ($M = 24.12$ years $SD = 1.24$) and a monthly income higher than the minimum of 2800 pesos ($M = 3123.24$ $SD = 12.24$).

Instrument. Scale Standards and Attitudes used to Application Abortion Garcia *et al.* (2016) which includes 16 reagents for standards group and attitudes towards legally assisted pregnancy interruption. Each reagent of the subjective norm includes five response options: 0 = it is not the norm of my group, 1 = it seems very little to the norm of my group, 2 = a little to the norm of my group, 3 = it looks something like the norm of my group, 4 = it is very similar to the norm of my group. In the case of the attitude, the

options are: 0 = nothing in agreement, 1 = very little in agreement, 2 = little in agreement, 3 = somewhat in agreement, 4 = very much in agreement. Procedure. The Delphi technique was used to adapt the instrument to the context and the study sample, comparing and integrating the information of the judges with respect to the meanings of the words.

The surveys were carried out in the homes of the female heads of household surveyed, upon request by telephone and written guarantee of confidentiality and anonymity of the responses and the warning that the results would not negatively or positively affect their economic, political or social status. Social. Analysis. The information was processed in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 20.0. Cronbach alphas were estimated to establish the reliability of the general scale and the subscales of the norms and attitudes (Garcia *et al.*, 2020). The validity was established with adequacy and sphericity tests, as well as exploratory factor analysis of principal axes with promax rotation. Correlation and regression for finding the dependency relationships between factors were weighted and parameters and residual adjustment for testing the null hypothesis and contrast the model.

Results

The establishment of the model that includes direct causal relationships between socioeconomic, demographic and cognitive variables includes reliability, validity, covariance, structure and fit from parameters whose values close to unity were considered as evidence of causality. In contrast, values close to zero were considered as evidence of spurious relationships. Table 1 shows the values that confirm the normal distribution. In the case of the kurtosis parameter, the values oscillate between -3 and +3, which is the threshold required to consider multivariate analysis.

Table 1. Normality and reliability of the norm and attitude towards induced abortion

R	Reagent	M	S	K	A	F1	F2
	Group Standard Scale				.865		
<i>r 1</i>	Friendships that will inform me	1.43	.654	.245	.801		.334
<i>r 2</i>	Teachers who will advise me	1.32	.453	.437	.804		.307
<i>r 3</i>	Family members who will support me	1.24	.678	.562	.824		.341
<i>r 4</i>	Companions who will help me	1.21	.543	.314	.842		.349
<i>r 5</i>	Known that they will defend me	1.43	.403	.214	.825		.328
<i>r 6</i>	People who will pressure me	1.25	.356	.235	.815		.378
<i>r 7</i>	Unknowns who will criticize me	1.26	.267	.234	.821		.348
	Attitude Scale towards Induced Abortion				.768		
<i>r 8</i>	Request for discouragement	1.14	.594	.353	.702	.307	
<i>r 9</i>	Crisis application	1.24	.433	-.172	.701	.317	
<i>r 10</i>	Request for economy	1.24	.345	-.161	.704	.379	
<i>r 11</i>	Application to religion	1.90	.672	-.344	.711	.378	
<i>r 12</i>	Application for work	1.05	.422	-.272	.714	.345	
<i>r 13</i>	Application before marriage	1.48	.552	.224	.709	.326	
<i>r 14</i>	Application for courtship	1.48	.784	-.275	.716	.305	
<i>r 15</i>	Application by school	1.67	.314	-.147	.703	.305	
<i>r 16</i>	Request for violation	1.34	.326	-.265	.708	.302	

Source: Elaborated with the data study; R = Reactive, M = Medium, D = Standard Deviation, C = Kurtosis, A = Alpha by removing the value of the item. Extraction method: main axes, promax rotation. Adequacy and Sphericity [$X^2 = 324.23$ (23gl) $p = 0.000$; $KMO = 0.780$] F1 = Attitude towards the legal request of termination of pregnancy (alpha of 0.768 and 34 % of the total variance explained), F2 = Group rule regarding the request for legal interruption of pregnancy (alpha of 0.865 and 22 % of the total variance explained).

In the case of the reliability or internal consistency of the answers to the items of the 346 instruments, it is higher than the required since it exceeds the .60 and in the case of the validity of the. Instrument, an exploratory factor analysis of main components with varimax rotation was carried out. The four items that measure the group norm and the eight items that measure the attitude toward induced abortion, exceed the factorial weights of .300,

which is the minimum required to consider an item as part of a factor which explained 56 percent of the variance.

Once the normality, reliability and validity were established, the covariance between the socioeconomic, demographic and cognitive variables was estimated. Table 2 shows values close to unity for the cases of attitude with age and the group norm. On the contrary, values close to zero between attitude and marital status suggest that there are spurious relationships in which the incidence of other variables not included in the model would affect the relationships between socioeconomic, demographic and cognitive factors.

Table 2. Covariances between the factors

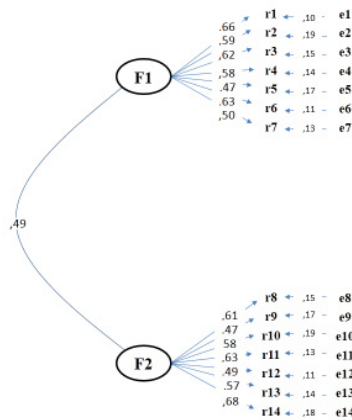
	M	S	F1	F2	F1	F2
F 1	23.02	12.49	1,000	0.613 **	1,891	0.607
F 2	25.17	15.89		1,000		1,998

Source: Prepared with the study data; M = Mean, S = Standard Deviation; F1 = Attitude towards the legal request of termination of pregnancy, F2 = Group Rule regarding the request for legal interruption of pregnancy: * p <, 01; ** p <0.001; *** p <, 0001

Model of causal relationships in which one can see that the essential determinant and the attitude is marital status. That is, to the extent that the people surveyed have a greater commitment as a couple, their attitudes towards induced abortion decrease and, very likely, they will request in the future the service of interruption of pregnancy if the occasion is presented. In the case of the group norm of belonging, sex was the main determinant. As the group norm influences the attitude towards induced abortion, the age of the applicants is premature. This finding corroborates an assumption of the psychological studies of induced abortion since the group norm influences the disposition, the intention and the request for interruption of pregnancy. The values are positive causal relationships attitude towards induced abortion and its determinants. That is, the sample surveyed expresses positive emotions towards the probability of carrying out the request for interruption of pregnancy. Such approval appears to be reduced in women, older adults, with incomes that do not exceed the minimum and in the process of marriage.

Finally, the adjustment and residual parameters were estimated. The values close to the unit for the case of the adjustment indices and close to zero for the residual indices are considered evidence of adjustment between the hypothetical causal relationship model and the estimated structural causal relationships model. Adjustment indices replace the “chi square” parameter because it is prone to sample size (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Structural Equation Modelling



Source: Elaborated with data study; F1 = Attitude towards the legal request of termination of pregnancy, F2 = Group Rule regarding the request for legal interruption of pregnancy; e = Errors measured indicators; ← relations between errors and indicator; → relations between factors and indicators.

The adjustment parameters of the model [$\chi^2 = 12.324$ (21gl) $p = 0.000$; GFI = 1,000; NFI = 1,000; CFI = 1,000; RMSEA = 0.000] warn that the socioeconomic and demographic variables have a direct and significant causal incidence on the group norm and the pro-abortion attitude. In the case of the norm, the positive relationship and in the case of the attitude is negative.

Discussion

The present study has established the direct and indirect causal relationships, positive and negative as well as significant between socioeconomic and demographic variables in reference to sociocognitive variables related to induce abortion. The results show that programs of preventive sexual education of induced abortion, would most likely influence attitude, intention and behavior in vulnerable groups of low socioeconomic strata and basic educational levels.

Within the framework of public health policies, induced abortion is a problem that increases to the extent that vulnerable groups develop a sexual dynamic that leads them to request the service of termination of pregnancy. In this context, preventive and health care programs could focus on adolescent groups of low socioeconomic strata and basic educational levels to prevent unwanted pregnancies and with it the abortive practice.

Psychological studies of abortion, mainly attitudinal studies, if they included socioeconomic and demographic variables, would establish significant causal relationships with the family planning norm, attitude, intention and behavior. As the groups, vulnerable, marginalized and excluded, will increase their educational and economic levels, they would plan their future without resorting to the abortive practice due to economic, family or couple pressure. Regarding public policies, mainly preventive programs, and the incidence of socioeconomic and demographic variables on risk behaviors related to sexual behavior, the friendship and couple decisions that make adolescents more vulnerable, marginalize mainly individuals with limited resources and exclude families that reach minimum levels of education. It is a comprehensive education program in which adolescents receive the information and coping strategies necessary to develop socio-communicative skills that allow them to be more assertive when deciding a sexual encounter.

Conclusion

The aim of the present work was to establish the reliability and validity of an instrument that measures group norms and attitudes toward the legally assisted request for termination of pregnancy. In the context of this study, this contribution will allow delineating the local agenda and the axes of discussion around family planning policy, reproductive and sexual health programs, as well as strategies for the prevention of unwanted pregnancy as empowerment or facilitators of entrepreneurship.

In this sense, the contrast of the model will make it possible to demonstrate the effects of the policies, strategies and programs related to birth control and support for micro-financing of women's coffee as an indicator of local development.

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