



**THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES  
OF THE YOUTH TOWARDS TERMINATION  
OF PREGNANCY (TOP) AT  
DZWERANI VILLAGE IN  
THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY**

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

### Introduction

South Africa's Termination of pregnancy Act, the most liberal abortion law in Africa, was enacted early in 1997. Despite the anticipated benefits to women's health, the communities' reactions have been mixed. This study determines knowledge and attitudes towards Choice on termination of pregnancy Act among young people in the rural area of Dzwerani.

### Methods

The study was quantitative in nature. A questionnaire was used as data collection instrument. Simple random sampling and systematic sampling methods were used. A sample of 136 participants was obtained from the three sampled sub-villages.

### Results

The majority (79%) of participants had heard about CTOP, and various sources of information about CTOP were indicated with the media, school and health services indicated as the main sources. The places where the service was offered were also indicated as the health services (94%) and the traditional healers (4%). Support for the CTOP Act was low, because only 15% of the participants supported CTOP. The majority of participants (68%) supported CTOP in case of rape, or if the continued pregnancy would endanger a woman's health (43%) and (58%), but few supported CTOP for social and economic reasons.

### Conclusions and recommendations

In spite of the general opposition to the law, there is an encouraging level of support for TOP in some circumstances. Understanding young people's knowledge about and attitude to CTOP may help in designing programmes to reduce the problem of unsafe abortions.

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