

**THE UTILISATION OF CONTRACEPTIVES BY WOMEN WHO
REQUESTED TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY SERVICES IN THE
GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT (MPUMALANGA)**

by

AN MBOKANE

submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for

the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS IN HEALTH STUDIES

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DECLARATION

I declare that **“The utilisation of contraceptives by women who requested termination of pregnancy services in the Gert Sibande District (Mpumalanga)”** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

SIGNATURE

DATE

(AN Mbokane)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank God my Creator for granting me the strength and courage to complete this study.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the following people for their respective contributions to this study:

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ABSTRACT

Contraceptives are available free of charge throughout South Africa. Nevertheless the number of requests for termination of pregnancy (TOP) services continues to increase. This research investigated challenges preventing women from using contraceptives effectively. Structured interviews were conducted with 47 women who requested TOP services. Gender and financial issues posed challenges for some women to access contraceptives as well as their reported inability to access contraceptives.

Most (85,5%) of the respondents used contraceptives. They discontinued using contraceptives because they experienced side-effects, necessitating them to request TOPs. Knowledge about, access to, nor the actual use of contraceptive enabled these women to prevent unwanted pregnancies. More effective counselling about the side-effects of contraceptives and enhanced accessibility of contraceptives during weekends and lunch breaks could enable more women to prevent unwanted pregnancies and reduce the number of requests for TOPs in the Gert Sibande District (Mpumalanga).

KEY CONCEPTS

Abortions, accessibility of contraceptives, contraceptive challenges, contraceptive use, contraceptive counseling, emergency contraceptives, sexuality education, side-effects of contraceptives, termination of pregnancy, unwanted pregnancies.

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my husband,
Simon,
and my two sons, Tuh and Mbulelo.