

## Rational Choice in Abortion: A Case Study of Urban Children

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### Abstract

Abortion by children is not only an impulsive act but also a rational choice, which is crucial to explain and evaluate. However, this phenomenon has been overlooked in previous scholarly discussions. In addition, responding to the gaps in previous studies, this study aims to explain the forms, factors, and implications of abortion by children in urban areas as a rational choice. Using a qualitative descriptive approach based on case studies, this study reveals three important findings. First, the practice of abortion by children in urban areas is carried out in various ways, both medical and non-medical. Second, abortions performed by children in urban areas are often influenced by social pressures such as their partners, parents, and the community. Third, abortion among children in urban areas has long-lasting implications for their physical, mental, and social well-being. Based on these findings, this study also recommends the importance of future studies that conduct intensive interviews to reveal the motives and modes of children in having more reflective abortions.

**Keywords:** Abortion, Children, Rational Choice, Sexuality, Urban Society

### I. INTRODUCTION

Even though it is considered as an irrational practice, abortion is often become a rational choice for children to cope with the consequences of sexual intercourse. Fernando, Larasati, and Pabbjah [1] also said that abortion performed by children does not only appear in the form of a single factor but is influenced by reasons that are considered rational by the subject. This context can be seen through the modus and motives of abortion cases committed by children, especially those that emerge and develop in urban areas [2]–[4]. In the view of Larasati & Abdullah [5], abortion tends to be considered an immoral act that is communally irrational. Still, for some children, abortion is regarded as a rational choice to overcome the consequences of their sexual relations. Koiwa, Shishido, and Horiuchi [6] also suggest that abortion by children in urban areas not only exhibits complex modes and motives but also essential to explain and reflectively analyze in order to understand the decisions made by the subjects. Studies that explain the forms of abortion are crucial, especially in analyzing the factors and long-term implications of abortion by children in urban areas as a rational choice.

Abortion as a rational choice for urban children is a phenomenon that is crucial to explain and evaluate. So far, studies on the phenomenon of abortion by children have focused on three dominant aspects. First, studies on the practice of abortion by children focus on normative legal legitimacy [7]–[9]. The research presented by Allison et al. [9] emphasized that parental involvement laws strongly influence the normative legal legitimacy of the practice of abortion by children. Second, studies that have addressed the abortion practice by children have focused on ethics and morality [10]–[12]. The study of Salcudean et al. [12] emphasizes that the ability of children to make autonomous decisions about abortion is a critical ethical issue. Children who have abortions face barriers to exercising their autonomy due to social stigma. Third, studies that address the practice of abortion by children focus on physical and psychological

health aspects [13]–[15]. Wasser et al. [15] also explain that children who have abortions are particularly vulnerable to increased risk of physical and mental health problems. In general, the studies that have addressed the issue of child abortion have focused on the legal, ethical, and health aspects, so they have not comprehensively addressed the issue of rational choice for abortion by children in urban areas.

In addressing the consequences of sexual intercourse for urban children, abortion is often seen as a rational choice. In fact, for some children in urban areas, abortion is not only a rational choice but is also considered to be a solution and guarantee their social welfare in the future. Wulandari and Rachmawati [16] also said that abortion as a rational choice is a very crucial issue to explain in order to analyze the reasons and ideas of children choosing to have an abortion to overcome the consequences of their sexual relations. So far, studies that have addressed the issue of rational choice for abortion by children have focused on legal [17], ethical [18], and health aspects [19]. However, studies that have addressed the issues of abortion by children have not been comprehensive. In addition to respond to the shortcomings of previous studies, this study also explains and evaluates the forms, factors, and implications of abortion by children in urban areas as a rational choice. Chiu et al. [20] also argued that studies explaining the reasons why urban children have abortions are crucial because they are often the focus of scholarly dialogue.

As a rational choice, abortion by children in urban areas is a critical issue to explain in order to evaluate the forms, factors, and implications of abortion by children in urban areas. To explain and evaluate this issue, this study focuses on three questions. First, what are the forms of abortion by children in urban areas? Second, what are the factors that influence urban children to have abortions? Third, what are the implications of abortion for children in urban areas? In line with these questions, this study is also based on the argument that although considered an irrational practice, abortion is often a rational choice for children to overcome the consequences of their sexual relations. The practice of abortion, beyond being an impulsive act, is also a rational choice for children in urban areas to cope with the consequences of sexual intercourse, especially for their future well-being. In other words, abortion by children in urban areas goes beyond being a social deviation. However, it is also a strategy to maintain the subject's position as part of their social life.

## II. LITERATUR REVIEW

### A. *Rational Choice*

Understanding how and why a person makes confident choices is essential to identify behavioral patterns underlying social interactions. For this reason, rational choice theory has become a paradigmatic way of analyzing people's behavior. Rational choice is a commonly used theoretical framework in various social sciences, including anthropology and sociology [21]. One of the figures considered the developer of the concept of rational choice is Max Weber, a sociologist. Weber explained the theory of rational choice in his book "The Theory of Social and Economic Organization," which explains that rational choices are not only based on self-interest but also on considerations of norms, values, and social context [22]. In addition to Weber, Boudon said that rational choice theory emphasizes the importance of the word "rational," where this word means that behavior is a process of cogitation that must be explained. This theory is also explained using the term "utility-maximizing approach," which explains that a person will rationally make very profitable choices [23], [24]. Therefore, individuals have understandable preferences in how they act consistently, especially in maximizing their utility [25].

According to Weber, rational choice is built on certain critical assumptions, among others is individual behavior. It is the primary key to understand broader social structures and behavior

of a person, when analyzed collectively, it can provide insight towards the pattern of group interaction [26]. Research conducted by Erfan [27] also shows that rationality in a social context is not only based on calculating personal benefits but also considers morality and altruistic values. In addition, rational choice theory reflects how individuals view themselves in a broader social network and consider various relevant moral and empirical options [28]. Thus, rational choice is a decision that combines individual logic and complex social expectations to navigate various social interactions and relationships effectively. In line with that, Thomas et al. [29] say that although rational choice focuses on individual decision-making, it also considers the broader social context. Hence, rational choice is based on considering social networks, norms, and structures in which they are positioned. In other words, rationality is not just about avoiding personal consequences but also evaluating broader social impacts, reactions, and the surrounding environment.

### *B. Abortion*

The termination of pregnancy, also known as abortion, is the process of deliberately ending a pregnancy by removing the fetus or embryo before it can survive outside the womb [30]–[32]. In line with that, Wijayati [33] also said that abortion is an attempt to terminate pregnancy by removing the fetus prematurely, either naturally 'spontaneously' or by using simple tools or technology. However, abortion is often associated with illegal acts because it is performed by someone who does not have the skills or in an environment that does not have adequate medical standards [34]. This context is reinforced by Saraswati [19], who stated that this situation is prevalent in many parts of the world, especially in developing countries where laws restricting access to abortion services, lack of trained practitioners, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure contribute to high rates of unsafe abortion. In addition, abortion is considered an immoral and impermissible practice because it not only destroys life but also affects a woman's future health [35]. Culturally, abortion is mainly practiced by girls because the system still considers underage girls to be immature, especially in childbearing, which encourages them to have abortions [36].

Many studies have highlighted cases of abortion involving children in different social contexts. For example, a study by Dickey et al. [37] showed that the majority of underage girls who had abortions in the United States reported that their reasons for having an abortion were based on fears and concerns about their economic ability to raise a child. The study also highlighted that underage girls with limited access to health services, especially from low economic backgrounds, are more likely to have abortions using unsafe methods. In addition to America, in Indonesia, a study conducted by Damayanti et al. [38] found that abortions among minors are often performed in secret and without adequate medical support due to the strong stigma attached to unplanned pregnancies. This stigma is deeply rooted in social norms and religious values that often lead to severe social ostracism and loss of family support for women who experience pregnancy before marriage, which encourages women to have abortions [39]. Other studies in countries with strict abortion regulations, such as sub-Saharan Africa, show that many children are subjected to illegal and hazardous abortion procedures due to lack of access to safe and legal abortion clinics [40].

### *C. Urban societies*

The concept of urban is always identified with cities or urban areas and the process of moving from villages to cities [41]. In this context, urban communities are also synonymous with more modernist community life, social mobility, and modern styles and education patterns that are very different from rural communities [42]. The definition of urban society is a society born due to the consequences of modernity that lived in the 2000s [43]. Urban society is very thick with urban nature, and the population is dominated by people who move from local areas to cities, so it becomes the main center of government attention and dramatically influences the

country's economy [44]. Usually, urban people decide to live in the city in the long term [45]. The purpose of urban people moving is generally to improve socio-economic welfare. Urban communities prefer to mobilize mediation centrality as a strategic orientation [46]. Therefore, urban society can be considered a liberal society due to several characteristics and dynamics that support individual and collective liberties [47]–[49].

Urban communities are characterized by dynamic life, high levels of social interaction, and various economic and educational opportunities. This context is due to the habit of urban communities that rapid consistent of the increasing sophisticated technological advances update [50], [51]. Urban society has a mind that is always open-minded due to the existence of reasons behind it [52]. This context is reinforced by Grossi et al. [53], who said that the urban environment is a complex system in which many factors interact simultaneously, demanding rational action for the community. Social and cultural changes generally easier to influence urban communities, due to the ever-evolving dynamics of cities [54]. One of the factors is the diversity of population backgrounds in big cities, which creates interactions between different cultures, values, and ideologies [55]. In an urban environment, the high level of mobility in the context of both residents and migrants accelerates the exchange of ideas and information. Thus, cities become centers where social and cultural changes can occur more quickly and tend to be accepted by their people, who are easily affected by external developments [56], [57].

### **III. METHOD**

This study was conducted on rampant abortion cases committed by children who were involved in unwanted pregnancy cases in Indonesia that were disseminated in online news via Google. However, this study only focuses on explaining the forms, factors, and implications of the abortions of children involved in unwanted pregnancy cases disseminated through online news. In line with that, this study is also based on three considerations. First, children's rational choice to have an abortion is a central issue that has not been comprehensively addressed in previous studies. Second, the choices made by a child for abortion have patterns that are so complex that it is crucial to reflect on them. Third, children's choice of abortion has a variety of implications that are important to evaluate.

This study is a descriptive qualitative study based on primary and secondary data. The primary data in this study are excerpts from online news text descriptions obtained through an intensive reading process of 1,000 online news texts using the search keyword "child abortion in urban areas" through the Google search engine. The search and data collection process started from August 20 to September 15, 2024. The process of selecting and reading the news was carried out quickly by three authors who focused on the headlines. The process resulted in 466 online news that discussed the forms of abortion committed by urban children, 386 online news that discussed the reasons that influence children to have abortions, and 148 online news that discussed the impact of abortion practices on urban children. Secondary data in this study was obtained through reading books, websites, and journal articles relevant to this study's focus.

The data analysis conducted in this study refers to the process by Miles and Huberman [19], which focuses on three processes. First, the process of reducing data is carried out to reorganize data into a more systematic form based on the tendencies represented by the data following the forms, factors, and implications displayed by the data. Second, the process of verifying data was carried out to obtain the essence of the data that had been reduced and then categorized thematically. Third, the process of describing the data is carried out to display the data that has been thematically categorized, then presented in the form of a table containing excerpts from the description of online news texts verified following the relevance of the arguments proposed in this study. From these three processes, the next step is to analyze the data reflectively as a basis for interpretation, as one of the researchers has done. Interpretation of the data is done by

restating the data inductively so that it is possible to obtain a conclusion on the phenomenon under study.

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Abortions performed by urban children are often based on the rational choices they made in coping the consequences of their sexual activity. Therefore, this study highlights three important findings regarding the forms, factors, and implications of the rational choices of urban children who decide to have an abortion. The context can be seen through the discussion below.

##### A. *Forms of Abortion by Children in Urban Areas*

The rational choice of children in urban areas to have an abortion comes in many forms. Aarsalna & Susila [66] also said that the practice of abortion among children in urban areas is often carried out in various forms or ways, which shows the different approaches and methods taken by children. Table I describes the different forms of abortion performed by children in the urban area. Table I also shows three important contexts in which children in urban areas make rational choices about abortion. First, the rational choice of children in urban areas for abortion is done by consuming drugs, as in the case of a 17-year-old child in North Jakarta who had an abortion by consuming medicines obtained from e-commerce [60]. Second, the rational choice of children in urban areas for abortion is done by going to an abortion clinic. This can be seen in the case of an 18-year-old child who had an abortion by visiting a *dukun pijat* (traditional masseur) with her partner [62]. Third, the rational choice of children in urban areas for abortion is done by consuming herbal products. This context can also be seen in the case of a 17-year-old who was desperate to abort her fetus by drinking traditional herbal products made from yeast and pineapple in her boarding house room [65]. From these three contexts, it can be reflected that abortion as a rational choice for children in urban areas is done in various ways, both medical and non-medical.

Abortion as a rational choice for children in urban areas is a phenomenon that demonstrates the complexity of decision-making in the face of limited access and strict laws. The child often makes abortion as a rational choice because methods such as the use of traditional medicines or herbal ingredients are more accessible to the child without the need to go through official medical procedures that require permission. This rational choice has been shown in Aarsalna and Susila's [66] study, which found that many children choose this method as a shortcut to avoid legal consequences. Burtscher et al. [67] also noted that non-medical abortion is perceived as less conspicuous and more socially "safe" because the child does not need to involve other people or parties who may reveal their secret. In other words, abortion is not only a pragmatic choice for children but also a strategy to protect oneself from social and legal pressures. Koiwa et al. [6] also suggest that information uncertainty and limited access play a role in making children unaware of the risks of abortion in the future. Therefore, the rational choice of the child to have an abortion is a method that is both accessible and a way to circumvent the law.

The rational choice of children to have an abortion is a strategy to protect themselves from social pressures and threats to their future. Children who choose to have an abortion consider the risk of losing access to education, employment, and future opportunities as a way to maintain control over their lives. Abortion, in this context, becomes a strategy for children to avoid social marginalization and ensure their future sustainability under more stable conditions [37]. When children experience unplanned pregnancies, they are often feel being pressed by social norms that tend to be judgmental and punitive, especially in societies that view pregnancy before marriage as a moral offense [38]. In these situations, abortion becomes a rational choice because it allows them to avoid such stigma and protects their chances of continuing their education and pursuing a future career. In this situation, abortion becomes a rational choice because it allows them to avoid such stigma and protects their chances of continuing their education and pursuing

a career. Thus, this decision not only represents an individual action but also reflects the urgent need for a more supportive environment to discourage children from having abortions.

TABLE I. VARIOUS ABORTION METHODS ARE USED BY URBAN CHILDREN

No.	Form of Abortion	Narration
1	Consuming medicine	The children with the initials MF and DAP (17 years old) chose to abort the baby from their affair. The couple aborted the pregnancy by consuming drugs purchased on an online site. The medicine consumed by DAP then reacted and made DAP feel abdominal pain [60].
2	Consuming medicine	The police arrested a 17-year-old girl for abortion. TA admitted to buy abortion pills for Rp. 2 million, online. She bought the pills from her social gathering money. Three days after taking the abortion medicine, TA felt abdominal pain, and she gave birth by herself in the bathroom [61].
3	Go to the traditional abortion clinic.	An 18-year-old couple went to a massage healer for an abortion. It is known that KDG's stomach has been massaged twice by NWA at Rp. 2,000,000. Her lover also escorted the action taken by KDG. KDG had an abortion based on the direction of her lover [62].
4	Go to the traditional abortion clinic.	The police arrested an 18-year-old couple for allegedly practicing abortion. The perpetrator, MSD, performed an abortion on his underage girlfriend with the help of a child masseur with the initials DM. MDS finally contacted DM and came to the clinic with her boyfriend. After that, DM also gave directions for abortion via telephone [63].
5	Consuming herbal drinks	The police arrested a 15-year-old girl with the initials PE for killing the baby she gave birth. PE was desperate to have an abortion and kill the baby she gave birth to, by buying menstruation-enhancing herbs for Rp. 400,000 online [64].
6	Consuming herbal drinks	MR, a 17-year-old girl, was desperate to abort the fetus in her womb by drinking traditional medicine made from yeast and pineapple in her boarding room. MR admitted that she was desperate to have an abortion triggered by a sense of disappointment with her boyfriend, who did not want to take responsibility and is currently in prison [65].

Source: Online news

TABLE II. THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS FOR URBAN CHILDREN TO HAVE AN ABORTION

No.	Factors	Narration
1	Partner pressure	A girl with the initials DPP (16 years old) in Tangerang District was forced to take abortion drugs by her partner after knowing DPP was pregnant. The coercion by her partner was based on the reason that he did not want to take responsibility [68].
2	Partner pressure	A girl with the initials NT was forced by her boyfriend to abort the baby in her womb. The man with the initials HD did not want the baby to be born because he was ashamed of having a child out of wedlock. HD had threatened NT that if she did not comply with his wishes, NT would be killed [69].
3	Family pressure	A mother forced her underage daughter to take abortion medicine to terminate her pregnancy. The victim's biological mother asked her neighbor to buy the abortion medicine at the market. The victim's mother also tried everything she could to buy a pineapple to abort the pregnancy [2].
4	Family pressure	The son of a police officer impregnated a girl with the initials P (16). The parents of her boyfriend had met P's parents and asked that the fetus in P's womb be aborted. Her boyfriend's parents also promised to be responsible for the risks [70].
5	Community pressure	A 15-year-old girl was desperate to remove the baby she was carrying even though it was only 6 months old. The action taken by the NSA was based on the fear of bearing shame in front of the family and the community because the fetus or baby was the result of extramarital relations [3].
6	Community pressure	A girl with the initials I (18 years old) had the heart to throw away a baby that was still in the womb. The motive was because she was ashamed that the baby was the result of an extramarital affair. So that neighbors would not know her actions, she deliberately had an abortion and threw the baby in the trash bin [71].

Source: Online news

### *B. The Factors of Abortion by Children in Urban Society*

A variety of complex and interrelated factors influence the decision to have an abortion. Larasati and Abdullah [5] also say that the factor that most influences the rational choices of children is the social pressure that often comes from the surrounding environment. The complexity of these factors can be seen in Table II.

Table II describes the factors that led children in urban areas to choose abortion. Table 2 also provides three important contexts for the factors that underlie abortion as a rational choice for children in urban areas. First, the rational choice of children to have an abortion is based on partner pressure. As in the case of a girl with the initials NT who received coercion and death threats from her partner if she did not want to have an abortion [69]. Second, the rational choice of children in urban areas to have an abortion is based on parental pressure. This can be seen in the case of a child who was pressured by her mother to have an abortion by drinking pineapple and medicine [2]. Third, the rational choice of children to have an abortion is based on community pressure. This context can also be seen in the case of a child who was desperate to abort because she was ashamed of her neighbors when she found out she was pregnant in a situation of extramarital affairs [3]. From these three contexts, it can be reflected that abortion by children in urban areas is often influenced by social pressures such as partners, parents, and the community.

Abortion as a rational choice for children in urban areas does not just emerge and develop out of thin air but is based on complex and contextualized reasons. The child's decision to have an abortion often puts the interests of others above their desires or needs. Pressure from the family and parents, who are concerned about reputation or social stigma, is one of the main drivers of children making abortion their rational choice. Fernando et al. [72] showed that families often felt that abortion was the best solution to avoid negative social repercussions. Fauziah et al. [73] also mentioned that many families consider abortion as a way to "safeguard" the future of the child, ignoring the emotional or physical implications for the child. Larasati and Abdullah [5] also noted that the choice to have an abortion is often seen as a solution to problems of social deviance committed by individuals. In other words, the decision to abort a child is often made not out of the child's desire but as a response to pressures that require them to conform to social or family standards. Such pressures often lead children to feel that they have no other option than abortion, even though they may not feel ready or agree.

In addition to family pressure, partner influence also plays a significant role in the decision to abort. Zia et al. [74] found that many underage girls felt pressured by their partners to have an abortion for reasons such as financial responsibility, emotional unpreparedness, or simply wanting to avoid long-term commitment. Many of them cited having an abusive and threatening partner as their reason for having an abortion. Pressure from a partner can create a difficult situation for children, leading them to rationalize abortion as the best move to maintain the relationship or avoid further conflict. Yuwono et al. [75] also said that underage girls often feel burdened to please or fulfill their partner's expectations, which makes the abortion decision seem like a rational choice oriented toward their partner's interests rather than their own. In other words, in many cases, the decision is based more on external party's interests rather than solely on their will. This emphasizes that abortion in children often reflects social control from external parties that leads to decisions that are not fully autonomous.

### *C. The Implications of Abortion by Children in the Future*

Abortion has many long-term implications that can affect the lives of children as a whole. Mills [76] also says that the impact of abortion on children is not only felt physically but also has a significant impact on their future well-being. The various implications can be seen through the display in Table III.

TABLE III. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN IN URBAN AREAS WHO HAVE ABORTIONS

No.	Implications	Narration
1	Threats to reproductive health	A girl with the initials M said she had experienced severe abdominal pain several months after her abortion. M then visited the hospital, and the doctor found remnants of blood clots that endangered her uterus [77].
2	Threats to reproductive health	After 4 years of abortion, I never got pregnant. Four years later, I still could not get pregnant. I felt so guilty for what I had done. I was very sorry [78].
3	Stigma	There is still a huge negative stigma against abortion. Even access to safe abortion is still minimal, especially if we are not married. I am still lucky that I managed to find an online seller that provides real abortion medicine [79].
4	Stigma	In the reality of society, the issue of abortion still give women disadvantages. All the stigma is raised and makes them become victims of stigma after having an abortion. They are physically and mentally victimized [80].
5	Child well-being	A girl with the initials S admitted that her future would be disrupted if she had a child. S was still in school when she got pregnant, and her boyfriend did not want to take responsibility. Meanwhile, she was not ready to have a baby [77].
6	Child well-being	An unwanted pregnancy like this is not a well-prepared pregnancy. Because the child's future will be lost when experiencing pregnancy [81].

Source: *Online news*

Table III describes the implications of children in urban areas choosing to have an abortion. Table III also provides three important contexts for the implications underlying the rational choice of children in urban areas to have an abortion. First, the rational choice of the child in urban areas to have an abortion has implications in the form of threats to reproductive health, as in the case of a child who experienced reproductive problems such as abdominal pain due to the remaining blood clots that were still attached after the abortion [77]. Second, the rational choice of the child in urban areas to have an abortion has implications in the form of stigma, as can be seen from the case of children who emphasize that the stigma from the social environment towards the condition of pregnancy outside of marriage is still extreme [79]. Third, the rational choice of urban children to have an abortion has implications in the form of disruption of future welfare. This context can also be seen in the case of a child who has an abortion because an unwanted pregnancy will interfere with her future [77]. From these three contexts, it can be reflected that child abortion in urban areas has long-term implications for physical, mental, and social well-being.

Children who have abortions not only face biological implications but also severe consequences in their social relationships that can have long-term effects. Larasati and Abdullah [5] point out that children who have had abortions often feel alienated from their social circles for fear of being poorly labeled or judged, both by friends and family. This fear can lower their self-confidence and make them reluctant to interact with others, isolating them from the emotional support they desperately need. Fernando et al. [1] mentioned that the shame or stigma attached to the experience of abortion often causes children to withdraw from society, even after the event has passed. Children who experience stigma experience difficulties in social integration, leading to isolation and reduced social trust. This can affect their ability to form stable connections with society. In other words, abortion not only affects the child's body but also carries the risk of social isolation that can affect them well into the future.

This degradation of social relationships can lead to reduced opportunities for children to build healthy and supportive relationships in the future. When children feel alienated or marginalized, they tend to have difficulty opening up to or trusting others in friendship settings and building romantic relationships. Tang et al. [82] also suggest that abortion experiences accompanied by social stigma can lead children to have a negative view of interpersonal relationships and hinder their emotional development. As a result, they may face challenges in



forging solid social relationships, which are essential for their psychological well-being and social development. In other words, the impact of abortion on children can affect the quality of their future social relationships, potentially hindering their ability to build healthy and supportive social networks. Moreover, sustained social isolation can lead a child to severe mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, or feelings of worthlessness. Without adequate social support, children may struggle to build and maintain healthy relationships in adulthood, hindering their emotional and social functioning.

## V. CONCLUSION

This study shows three important findings regarding children's rational choice to have an abortion. First, there are various methods chosen by urban children to obtain an abortion, ranging from visiting abortion clinics to consuming drugs. Second, pressure from various parties such as partners, family, and community strongly influences the rational choice of urban children to have an abortion. Urban children often feel forced to make this decision because of the demands and disapproval of the people around them, giving rise to a big push to choose to have an abortion. Third, urban children's rational choice for abortion has a variety of long-term implications, including reproductive health risks, social stigma, and impacts on the future well-being of urban children. These three findings suggest that the abortion decision among urban children is a complex phenomenon in which a wide range of considerations and impacts influence their rational choice.

The findings of this study are fundamentally different from previous studies on abortion among urban children. So far, studies on abortion among urban children have focused on the legal, ethical, and physical risks of the procedure. However, the findings in this study show that, in addition to be a personally driven decision, it is also a rational choice made amidst social pressure from partners, family, and the environment. This context shows that children's choice to have an abortion is not only driven by individual reasons but also by solid social influences that encourage them to make this rational decision. The findings in this study are not only expected to provide a dialogical basis for the development of anthropological studies but also to be used as evaluation material for policies and programs aimed at supporting the welfare of children in the face of pressures related to their reproductive decisions.

This study has limitations in the data collection process, which was only carried out through searching online news using the keyword "child abortion in urban areas" uploaded through the Google platform. In other words, the data described in this study are only text quotations from online news sources. However, this limitation is expected to be a reference for future research to conduct more in-depth interviews with individuals who have experienced this situation. By involving intensive interviews, future studies can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the emotional, social, and health impacts of children's rational choice to have an abortion.

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