Psychosocial context for teenage girls asking for a voluntary termination of pregnancy who consulted the “Sexual Health and Family Planning Unit” in Geneva, Switzerland

OBJECTIVE
• Assess whether teenage girls requesting a voluntary termination of pregnancy (VTP) at the Sexual Health and Family Planning Unit (USSPF) of Geneva have a particularly psychosocial context (PSC)
• The psychosocial context is defined by four main dimensions: sociocultural, educational, family, and psychological.

METHODS
• Selection of all files of teenage girls up to 18 included who consulted at the USSPF and went through an abortion in 2013: 43 cases.
• Age ranged from 15 to 18 years old.
  Distribution: 15 years 18.6%, 16 years 27.9%, 17 years 30.2%, and 18 years 23.3%.

RESULTS

SOCIOCULTURAL DIMENSION
• Important presence of the second generation: 1/3
  2/3 of the teenage girls were Swiss, of whom nearly three quarters had another nationality. ¾ of these were born in Geneva
• Recent migration: 1/3
  30.2% of the teenage girls were foreigners. Except one, all arrived in the previous two years and almost half lived in precarious circumstances, without legal status.
• Cultural conflict: 1/4
  25.6% of all the girls had experienced an important cultural conflict between their culture of origin and the host country culture.

FAMILY DIMENSION
• Major conflicts: 1/3
  30.2% of the teenage girls lived in a very difficult relational context with the parents.

EDUCATIONAL DIMENSION
• Failures at school: 1/3
  30.2% of the teenage girls are concerned. Among them, 77% had stopped attending school.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSION
• Recent experience of loss: 1/3
  35% of the teenage girls had recently experienced losses:
  - death or serious illness in the family
  - significant intimate relationship breakdown
  - recent parental separation
• Psychotherapy for severe problems: 1/5
  - 19% of the girls are in treatment

CONCLUSIONS
▶ Three quarters (76.7%) of the teenage girls who had requested a VTP with USSPF in 2013 were in a particular PSC. Most of the time, they accumulated sociocultural, educational, family, or psychological difficulties.
▶ This study raises the question whether, overall, teenage girls consulting USSPF have a more difficult PSC or whether difficult PSC during adolescence is a risk factor for VTP.

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