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**OPINIONS OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ON LIBERALIZING ABORTION LAW IN SRI LANKA
AND THE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE OF ABORTION SEEKERS.**

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Abstract: This article highlights the gap between the opinions of health professionals on liberalizing the abortion law in Sri Lanka, and the actual reasons given by a sample of women who sought abortions at a clinic in the city of Colombo. 247 qualified and experienced health professionals in the Colombo district were invited to express their opinions on eight circumstances under which the law relating to induced abortion could be liberalized. Their views, and the reasons for seeking abortion given by the women at the abortion clinic differed significantly, suggesting that even though the law may be liberalized to allow for abortions under certain circumstances, women seeking abortion may still visit abortion clinics for reasons that are not permitted by the law.