

Module 2

Post-module assignment

Compare and analyze in 300-500 words the different laws for abortion between India and any other country.

Abortion rights are human rights, considering that these rights fall in different categories such as the right to health, liberty, life, privacy, etc. The process of abortion at the global level can be categorized country-wise under the sections:

1. Prohibited altogether
2. To save the woman's life
3. To preserve health
4. Broad social or economic grounds
5. On request in which gestational limits vary

The above categories can be viewed as a continuum acknowledging that category 1 of prohibition is most restrictive and category 5 of abortion on request is most liberal.

Considering the global map in terms of accessible abortion services, most liberal countries as expected are the first-world and second-world countries. The countries where abortion is still prohibited are third world countries or the countries which are still working on their development. The impact of colonization might have impacted the scientific development of these categories but as most of these countries now have accessed freedom, their governments shall also consider the human rights-based approach for their holistic development. Making abortion accessible will help in reducing the maternal mortality rates in these countries and thereby improve their positions in reaching the sustainable development goals by 2030.

If we consider India, the country stands at the 4th position of the continuum. This means that abortion accessibility is quite liberal in our country as compared to other developing nations but there is still a wide scope of improvement. The scope lies in the following factors:

- Abortion on request
- Consideration of adolescent sexual agency
- Accessible for distant geographical areas
- Affordable abortion
- Improved awareness about available abortion services
- Destigmatization of patriarchal norms

- Framed with a “right to health” lens
- Inclusive of all pregnant persons (trans, mentally, and physically disabled)
- Acknowledgment of “right to bodily autonomy”