

Some of the most jarring abortion myths I have encountered are the ones that centre around the social perceptions surrounding the procedure. The module discussed a variety of such myths, including but not limited to, the supposed mental health problems that follow an abortion procedure, the kind of people who opt for an abortion, and the binary of the compassionate versus the promiscuous “mother”. These perceptions and myths are fed by the constant presence of norms which dictate a woman’s life, to the extent of dictating that she is unaware of how she must treat her own body. Reproductive autonomy, and the agency to make decisions concerning it is the most fundamental right, but the anti - abortion discourse believes that it is not so. In clamouring for the right of the unborn foetus, the living person’s rights are given a lower priority. With the perpetuation of the myths surrounding abortion and the stigma that gets attached to it, access to safe and secure abortions is restricted. This further diminishes the right of the person to have unfettered access to secure health facilities, making them hesitant to pursue safe options. It is also believed that people encounter mental health problems *because* of the procedure, which dilutes the stress and trauma attached to the act of being pregnant at a time when they might not be ready for it.