

Assignment – 1 Common Myths and Misconception.

Response paper about commonly heard myths and misconceptions around abortion.

All people have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and decide if, when and how to have a child. Abortion is a common and safe medical procedure. Myths and misconceptions around abortion give rise to fear and stigma. Most myths around abortion are centred on the repercussions and consequences of the procedure.

The most common myth that I have heard is that abortion affects fertility or if you have an abortion then the next time you conceive the foetus will have developmental issues. A safely conducted abortion does not cause subsequent fertility problems and in fact according to World Health Organization (2012), Safe Abortion: Technical and Policy Guidance for Health Systems (second edition) fertility can return as soon as two weeks after an abortion. This myth can lead to more unintended pregnancies if the person believes that they are unable to get pregnant after an abortion and thus do not use contraception. The decision of whether to end or continue a pregnancy should always rest with the person who is pregnant, regardless of the stage of gestation.

Making access to abortion-related services more difficult at any stage in pregnancy does not reduce a person's need to seek an abortion service. In fact, it results in an increase in the number of people seeking unsafe abortions. Abortion is a very safe procedure when conducted in sanitary conditions by a trained medical practitioner, using approved methods and medication. Carrying a pregnancy to term is more risky than having a safe abortion. In fact, safe abortion is one of the safest medical procedures that exist.

Irrespective of the reason, a person with uterus has every right to seek abortion based on their life, identity, lived experiences etc. It is imperative that the pregnant person we made aware of the facts backed with evidence so that they don't give into the myths that they are told. The pregnant persona has the right to seek abortion upto 12 weeks of gestation and upto 20 weeks of gestation if the foetus or individual is in direct medical danger.