

Write a reflective piece in 100-200 words on the points of contention within different acts (MTP Act, POCSO Act, PCPNDT Act).

The intersections of the PCPNDT Act and PoCSO with MTP, place undoubted barriers for pregnant persons of varied age groups to safely access abortions.

To begin with, the coming together of PoCSO with MTP poses barriers for young adults/adolescents exercising bodily autonomy/agency to undertake abortions. The former Act, while serving an important purpose, pose problems wherein not only is access to safe sexual-reproductive services denied but the pregnant person is robbed of the choice, confidentiality, privacy and dignity when undertaking abortions. This may be applicable even in cases where the pregnant person has been a survivor of sexual abuse, the immediate involvement of guardians and the police (while necessary!) also make the survivor way more vulnerable.

Similarly, with PCPNDT and MTP - while the idea is to definitely curb gender biased sex selective abortions - adult pregnant persons are denied abortions by service providers for fear of strict action.

With no appropriate means or support, the system pushes a large number of pregnant persons towards the risk of seeking unsafe means of getting abortions. The unresolved question for me, then, is : Whom does the responsibility lie with if the persons takes to an unsafe means and risks their own life in the process? The laws have resorted to strict action, without any regard for the nuances, prevailing socio-cultural structures and most importantly to the agency/experience of the pregnant person themselves.