

1. Why should we advocate for a rights-based approach to abortion services and not a needs-based one?

Ans- Because abortion is a choice and it should be open for everyone who wants to seek abortion. It should not be considered a special category medical procedure entrenched with so much of stigma or rules that make abortion inaccessible to people. We should be able to take decisions which are concerned with our health and body. Therefore abortion should be counted in that instead of being subjected to a law and several restrictions. Since it's a need based area in India and several countries, it allows the state and culture to practice power and control over pregnant or vulnerable people who are seeking abortion. Therefore it takes away their agency and freedom to choose.

2. Explain how social and religious views on sexuality can hamper reproductive rights.

Religion practices immense power over society as a whole. In several religions, abortion is considered a sin and conception or pregnancy is considered a gift from God. This allows not only the control over women's or person's body and sexuality, but also restricts them and hampers their agency. It can place pregnant people in a very unhealthy or unsafe environment or abusive environment as well. Therefore religious intersection in sexual and specifically abortion and reproductive rights can create a complicated situation. Since it won't view an individual as an autonomous member of the society with rights.

3. Explain how Indian society perceives motherhood.

In India, motherhood or mother is placed at a very prestigious position in various cultures. There are several texts, religious myths, stories, beliefs and ideologies which legitimise and validate the position of a mother. However, this does not account for the systematic oppression of women in Indian society. Since motherhood is normalised to an extent that it's assumed that every "woman" will eventually become a mother, leaving out any person who might choose not to have any children, abortion is considered to be stigmatized. Therefore, whenever the question of abortion comes, it is used along with a sentimental and regressive orientation towards motherhood and maternal instincts, and therefore can be very triggering for a person who is going through an abortion. Thus, this patriarchal worshipping of motherhood and symbols that preach mother can compromise with people's right to access safe abortion, or practice their sexuality, or choose not to have kids.

4. How do prejudice and bias on the part of service providers affect access to safe services?

If the service providers are biased and morally police the person seeking abortion, it can prove to be very difficult for the person to access safe abortion, and it can prove to be a very difficult hurdle in the process which is already so stigmatized. Therefore, it is an unfortunate predicament for the pregnant person because they not only have to tackle their mental health, and regressive society, but also deal with backward service providers.

5. What are some of the challenges facing unmarried persons while seeking abortions?

Since India is still a very closed society when it comes to sex, talking about abortion alone is very stigmatized. Abortion in an unmarried relationship can be very difficult to navigate since India is a sex negative society. Pregnant person can face slut shaming, moral policing, oppressive rules and decisions that are more towards pro life. A single pregnant person is also very vulnerable since oppressive society like India is a very hostile place for a single mother. Therefore, in urban area or might be easy however we can't assume that, and in rural area it might even be more difficult to get an abortion for an unmarried person.