

Unpregnant

Unpregnant is a 2020 English film based in the United States of America. The plot goes like this: there is a 17 year old character, Veronica, who discovers that she is pregnant. One of her friends finds out about her pregnancy test and offers to help out with the transportation and support. However, as the film is set in Missouri, where parental consent is necessary for abortion for anyone under 18, and since her mother is very conservative and religious, Veronica decides to travel to another state, New Mexico, to get an abortion, where there is no such rule. The whole film is a journey of these two friends and is centred around abortion, Veronica's anxiety and her friendship with Bailey. Apart from all this, the abortion is expensive in that state and costs over 1000 dollars including the transportation etc. Since it's a comedy film, the general surrounding was light hearted and not extremely dark or serious, although there are moments where one can find it triggering. In one of the scenes Veronica and Bailey get kidnapped by a pro life family who try to convince her to not to get an abortion, however both of them escape from them and eventually reach the clinic. Upon reaching, one can see the whole process as though we are actually with Veronica in that clinic. First she is seen sitting in consultation where the doctor asks her few questions about consent, anaesthesia and someone to go home with after the procedure, then she gets a vaginal ultrasound, and the doctor mentions that she doesn't have to look at the monitor if she doesn't want to which I feel was very sensible of the writers to include that dialogue. Then her vitals are checked, and then she is taken in for the surgical abortion, which gets over in 10 minutes as the doctor says, and then she wakes up in the recovery room.

I feel this was the most positive and light representation of abortion I have ever seen in a film. It's always a subject which gets overshadowed with dark, triggering setting, and therefore sometimes we are expected to act like we should be mentally affected heavily by abortion, however, Veronica replies to her friends after she asks her how are you feeling in one word, 'relieved'. Therefore this is an impactful scene as one can see that abortion is a very normal and crucial procedure for some. Thus I can say that all of the above mentioned points, that's what they got right, they showed the character is taking her own decision instead of being convinced or coerced, there was so personhood accorded to the fetus, which made it even more informative and less triggering.

What they got wrong was probably the time duration of the procedure, and that it may take even more longer hours to perform an abortion, apart from this technical information, I think there was nothing wrong about the representation of abortion in this film.

Yes this film raise awareness about rights based on abortion because it shows the struggle of a teenager who have to go to another state to get an abortion. If her own state was devoid of any such parental consent rule, then she could have gotten it but again, Missouri is a conservative state, so it might still be difficult for a person to get an abortion there. This this film throws light upon how useful it is for the government and state to have a proper system in place so that people can access abortion, and that certain rules like parental consent can actually work against the pregnant person.