

Lesson 2 - Assignment

Using a rights-based argument, write a response paper about commonly heard myths and misconceptions around abortion. You may choose any myth from the lesson or one that you may have heard otherwise. [200-300 words]

A commonly held belief in the Indian society is that it is only irresponsible/promiscuous women often deemed as “characterless” who need to access abortion services. Hence, people who do seek abortion (for a variety of valid personal reasons) are vilified and their morality and character are questioned to the extent that it may hinder them from accessing this service. Such a mentality that stems from misogynistic and patriarchal minds ultimately aims to maintain the status quo that is the dominance of cis het men over all other genders. One of the many ways in which this dominance prevails is through constant policing of reproducing persons’ bodies and controlling their sexuality. Reproducing persons which include cis women, trans men and enby folks face numerous challenges in a heteropatriarchal society, a major challenge being the violation of their bodily autonomy and reproductive rights.

It is thus extremely important to change this harmful narrative, because ultimately the decision of taking a pregnancy to term or not comes under bodily autonomy which is a human right. It is a decision that should solely be made by the pregnant person. Moreover, stigmatising abortion and shaming people for accessing it would only lead to people undergoing unsafe abortion procedures. There is an urgent need to bring about this awareness amongst people in India.