Place 5 identities on a scale of likelihood of getting access to a safe abortion and also give your rationale for the same [100-200 words].

I would like to explore the scale of likelihood in an urban setting among cis-het women. The rationale for the same would be, to look within a setting that I have grown up in, for e.g. Urban and within the identity of the Cis-Het woman that I occupy. The rationale is also to minimise misrepresentation of the narratives and experiences of various other and often intersecting identities, e.g., Trans* persons, rural contexts, which I fear I would not be able to visualise on a scale vis-a-vis other identities.

This is an exercise for me to visualise the various identities within the two aforementioned contexts that I am most acquainted with and what difficulties they are likely to face. I also completely acknowledge that I may not be able to do justice to the same, and such a scale is in no way completely representative of the experiences of individuals occupying any of these identities.

5. Most Likely : Married, Cis-Het, Upper Caste, Upper Class, Employed, Female.

This identity has been Ranked 5, i.e. Most Likely to receive safe abortion services. This individual is married, which definitely may give easier, non-judgemental access to services. I have also mentioned Upper Caste, Upper Class and Employed(in Organised Sector) - all three identities which provide a strong socio-economic base to access services with means to pay for transport, along with safe pre & post operative abortion care/services mostly probably at higher-end private facilities.

4. More Likely : Un-Married/Single, Cis-Het, Upper Caste, Upper Class, Employed, Female.

This identity has been Ranked 4, i.e, More Likely to receive safe abortion services. Likelihood is attributed in comparison to the other identities on this scale. Despite possibly facing difficulties such as judgement or prejudice due to an unmarried/single status from a few service providers, the individual is more likely to invest in exploring/finding other service providers through the city to avail the service. Employment(in Organised Sector) leading to financial security and social support from similar Caste/Class friends/family networks who may support such a search would be a great boost.

3. Likely : Married, Cis-Het, Lower Caste, Lower Class, Employed, Female.

This identity has been Ranked 3, i.e, Likely to receive safe abortion services. Likelihood is attributed in comparison to other identities on this scale. I would imagine this identity to be occupied by a person working in the unorganised sector, for e.g., as a domestic worker. The monetary remuneration may not be enough to avail higher end or more comprehensive care/service facilities. The individual may have to be more reliant on Public Health Services like PHCs or CHCs rather than private facilities, which while providing safe and Institutional Facilities may pose different problems with lack of sensitised staff or infrastructure.* Lower Caste and Lower Class status, may further pose difficulties in paying for pre and post abortion care/services.

*Note : This is not a commentary on superiority of Private Facilities with better equipped staff or infrastructure, just a general comment on under-funded and cared for Public Health Care Institutions.

2. Less Likely : *Un-Married/Single Cis-Het, Educated, Lower Caste, Lower Class, Student, Female*

This identity has been Ranked 2, i.e, Less Likely to receive safe abortion services. Likelihood is attributed in comparison to other identities on this scale. I have mentioned that the individual is a student, which would mean that the individual does not have a source of income of their own to pay for expensive or more secure services. Finding cheaper means, the stigma of caste and being single would contribute to availing unsafe services.Staying far away from home or in hostel facilities with under equipped medical infrastructure may further add to the distress or access to pre and post abortion care. The student, if being a young adult, i.e., below 18, becomes far more vulnerable facing prejudice on account of age, often being denied access altogether.

1. Least Likely : *Un-Married/Single, Cis-Het, Sex Workers, Lower Class, Lower Caste, Employed*

This identity has been Ranked 1, i.e, Least Likely. Likelihood is attributed in comparison to other identities on this scale. The individual is a Sex Worker hailing from a Lower-Caste community, which automatically adds a layer of prejudice when accessing any Sexual or Reproductive Health Services, even abortion. This renders the individual far more vulnerable, often forcing them to turn to more hidden or unsafe service providers.