

Please answer the following questions in 50-70 words.

1. Explain why myths and misconceptions about abortions are dangerous.

Myths and misconceptions about abortions can be dangerous as they can perpetuate stigma and misconceptions which prevent people from accessing safe services. For example, misconceptions around who can avail services (like married, cis-het women), which means can be used (like use of sharp objects or home remedies) or the results of such a service (like leading to infertility or harm to foetus) among others may restrict persons from not only accessing let alone considering the service.

2. Most of the myths and misconceptions about abortion are based on which concerns?

Most myths and misconceptions on abortions are centred around abortion services being physically harmful to the foetus(attaching personhood to foetus hence, violence/killing) and the individual(like leading to infertility).

3. Which misconception about abortion can cause serious physical harm?

A misconception that could potentially lead to immense physical harm is the idea of sharp object such as twigs, hangers etc. could lead to the safe termination of pregnancy. Such a method is highly unsafe which could lead to infections or internal ruptures among others.

4. Under what circumstances can abortion cause infertility?

There is a false linkage between abortions and infertility. Under almost no circumstances can provision of safe abortions cause infertility. Only if the services are provided by untrained practitioners or using unsafe means, like use of sharp objects etc. can there be chances of infections or uterine ruptures which may affect fertility.

5. What are the causes of stress and trauma for people seeking abortions and how can stress and trauma be minimised?

Stigma linked with abortions may be one of the prime causes of stress for the individual seeking an abortion. Having to face biases from service providers on account of their sexuality and pregnancy, from unsupportive family perpetuating shame around seeking abortions, from community with stereotypes referring to promiscuity among others may cause individuals to fear labelling and exclusion. Minimising the stress can be achieved with positive discussions and messaging around abortions, provision of adequate counselling and availability of post abortion care.

6. Abortions are sought mostly by young and unmarried women. True or False?

False. Abortions can be sought by anyone owning a uterus, across the gender spectrum. The service can be availed by persons regardless of their age and marital status.

7. Only Cis-gendered women can become pregnant. True or False?

False. Any persons who own a uterus can become pregnant.