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“Endorsing Accountability: Reapproaching Neglected Urgencies”

SA 3-Health

The Question Of Providing Abortion Rights

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RESEARCH
REPORT



Forum: Special Assembly 3-Health

Issue: The Question Of Providing Abortion Rights

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Introduction

The question of providing abortion rights has been a great debate since it was first used in the premodern eras. Many individuals began questioning the ethics and morals of abortion, wondering if the act could be considered as murder. These and many more questions have been a barrier for abortion rights. Some nations provide abortion rights and other nations do not because of the clash of ideas, policies, cultural and religious beliefs. As a result of people not having abortion rights, protests arose and caused chaos.

Definition of Key Terms

Abortion: Abortion is a procedure that is done to end a pregnancy. An abortion can be also named as medical abortion. A medical abortion doesn't require surgery or anesthesia and can be started either in a medical office or at home with follow-up visits to your doctor. It's safer and most effective during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Medication Abortion: Also known as the abortion pill is a form of abortion that consists of two different medicines which are mifepristone and misoprostol. Medication abortion is an effective way to end early pregnancy.

Pro-Choice: A point of view which believes that women should be able to choose abortion as an option with their freewill, supporting abortion as an option.

Pro-Life: A point of view that is opposed to the belief that a pregnant women should have the freedom to choose abortion as an option if she doesn't want to give birth to an infant, not supporting abortion.

General Overview

Each year, around 73 million induced abortions are done around the world. Six out of 10 (61%) of all unwanted pregnancies, and 3 out of 10 (29%) of all pregnancies, end in induced abortion.

Comprehensive abortion care is included in the list of basic universal health care services which was published in 2020 by the World Health Organization. Abortion is a simple health care intervention that can be effectively managed by a wide range of health workers using medication or a surgical procedure. A medical abortion can also be safely self-managed in the first twelve weeks of pregnancy outside a health care facility by the pregnant person. Accurate information, quality medicines and support from a trained health worker is essential in this process in order to make the process work smoothly. Optimum abortion care should include the supervision of information, abortion management and post-abortion care. It encompasses care related to miscarriage (spontaneous abortion and missed abortion), induced abortion (the deliberate interruption of an ongoing pregnancy by medical or surgical means), incomplete abortion as well as fetal death (intrauterine fetal demise).

Women's reasons for having abortions: The main reasons of women having abortions can be listed as; not being financially prepared, unplanned, unwanted pregnancy or pregnancy with a bad timing, partner related reasons, the need to focus on other children if there are any, interfering with job or studying plans, not being emotionally and mentally prepared, health related problems, influence from the outside and not being mature and ready enough..

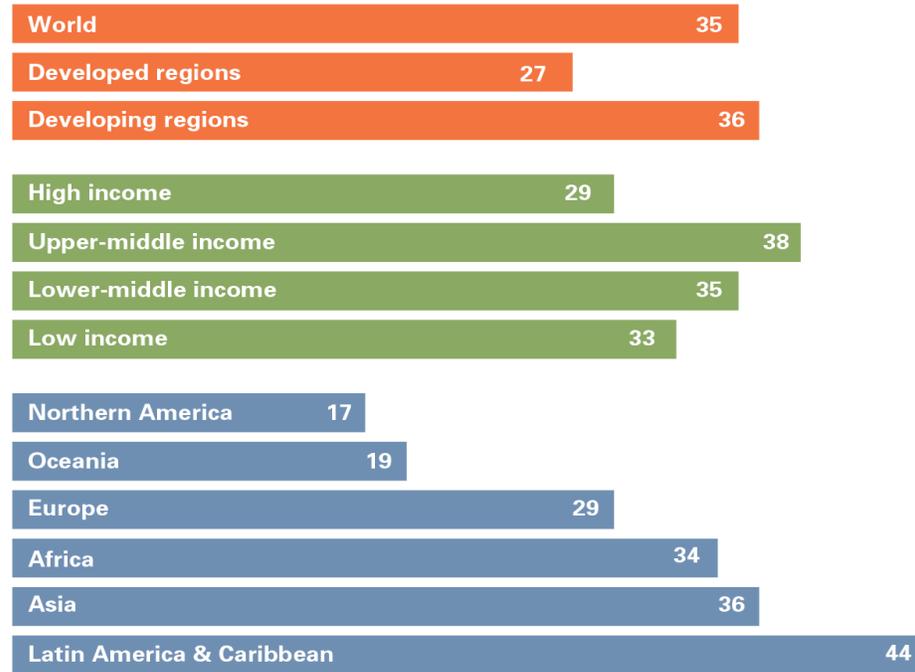
Not being financially prepared; With the world population growing at a quick pace, economic/financial circumstances getting worse and poverty spreading in some countries, people may not want to raise a child in such harsh conditions. That is why pregnant women usually want to have an abortion in order not to raise a child in bad conditions. This is one of the biggest reasons of abortion along with rape/unwanted pregnancy cases.

Rape/Unwanted Pregnancy Cases; Another huge reasons of abortion requests are rape and unwanted pregnancies. These cases may occur unfortunately in most countries in the world. Rape-related pregnancy occurs with frequency. It is a cause of many unwanted pregnancies and is closely linked with family and domestic violence. As the epidemic of unintended pregnancies are addressed in the United States, greater attention and effort should be provided at preventing and identifying unwanted pregnancies that result from sexual victimization.

FIGURE

2.1 Abortion rates are lower in developed regions than in developing regions; by major region, they are highest in Latin America and the Caribbean and lowest in Northern America.

No. of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44



● **NOTES TO FIGURE 2.1** Annual rates are averages for 2010–2014. In this and all other figures and tables, we use the UN definition of developed regions that includes Northern America, Europe and the countries of Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Developing regions encompass Africa, Asia (except for Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania (except for Australia and New Zealand). *Sources:* Abortion rates by geographic areas—reference 15; by income group—reference 16.

www.guttmacher.org

Religions/Cultures and Abortion

The majority of people who got abortions in 2014 indicated that they were a member of some religion. Nearly 24% of abortion patients said they were Roman Catholic, 18% reported being Mainline Protestant, 13% said they were Evangelical, and 8% said they belonged to a faith other than Christianity. Buddhists people are in the belief that life should not be killed, but they regard causing death as morally unethical only if the death is caused deliberately or by negligence. Traditional Buddhism rejects abortion because it involves the deliberate destruction of a life. Buddhists regard life as starting at conception. Modern Buddhists, however, are more divided about the ethnicity of abortion. The Church of England is encouraging people to think through the issue of abortion very regardful and recognises that each citizen

will have particular views on the subject. The Church of England is alarmed by the quantity of abortions carried out each year in this country. Hindu medical ethics originate from the ahimsa principle - of non-violence. When considering abortion, the Hindu way is to choose the action that will do least harm to all involved: the mother and father, the fetus and the society. Hinduism is therefore generally opposed to abortion except where it is necessary only in order to save the mother's life. Muslims regard abortion as wrong and haram (forbidden), but many accept that it may be permitted in certain cases such as rape and unwanted pregnancy. All schools of Muslim law accept that abortion is permitted if continuing the pregnancy would put the mother's life in a dangerous situation. This is the only reason accepted for abortion after the first 120 days of the pregnancy. Different schools of Muslim law are supporting different views on whether any other reasons for abortion are permitted, and at what stage of pregnancy if so. Judaism does not fully ban abortion, but it does not permit abortion on demand. Abortion is only permitted for important reasons. Judaism expects every case to be considered on its own merits and the decision to be taken after consultation with a rabbi competent to give advice on such matters. Strict Judaism permits abortion only in cases where continuing the pregnancy would put the mother's life in serious danger.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Poland

In 2021, the Polish Government redacted their laws to a near complete ban of abortion. Even though most of the community in Poland are supporting the access to abortion rights, Poland's conservative government are allies with the Catholic church, which opposes abortion. The redacted laws that underlined that the access to abortion would only be allowed in the cases of rape and incest. As a result of the controversial decision, people started to go out to the streets in order to protest this decision.

Mexico

Until 2021, having an abortion was considered a crime in Mexico. The Supreme Court changed their laws to make it more abortion friendly in September of that year, but pro-choice activists are warning that there is a long road ahead to ensure open full access to abortions in the country.

China

China is moving to limit abortion access in order to make falling birthrate raise more. The country's birth rate has fallen to its lowest level since 1961, which concerned government officials enough to reverse China's decades-long one-child policy in 2015. The announcement that China would attempt to limit abortions via improved contraceptive access or restricted abortion access or both has worried some women in the country, who fear they may be left without control of their reproductive futures should the state ban abortions entirely.

Russia

Russia holds a place among the countries that has the highest abortion rates. The Russian Government is trying to stop the high rate of abortion in Russia to redress the country's population decline. Russia currently pays for abortions under the country's medical insurance program. Putin's government along with the country's conservative church leaders are trying to redirect this funding into material support for women who choose to continue the pregnancy.

United States of America

In September 2021, the Supreme Court refused to block a piece of Texas legislation that bans abortions in the state after six weeks. Pro-choice activists in Texas and their allies across the nation decried the move as a de facto near total ban on abortions, as many women do not even know they are pregnant at six weeks. The court's decision may set up a showdown over abortion rights on a national level at the Supreme Court, as current conditions in Texas cut against the landmark ruling guaranteeing abortion access across the country.

Timeline of Events

Date of Event	<i>Description of Event</i>
18 November 1920	<i>The Soviet Union became the first country to legalize abortion under the leader Vladimir Lenin</i>
1921	<i>The law that legalized abortion in the Soviet Union was broached in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic</i>
1931	<i>Abortion only in the cases of rape was legalized in Mexico</i>
1932	<i>Poland became the first country in Europe to legalize abortion in cases of rape and threat maternal health</i>
1935	<i>The first Western country to legalize therapeutic abortion under special context was Iceland</i>
1935	<i>Ireland made contraception illegal under the 1935 Criminal Law Amendment Act</i>
1936	<i>Leader Joseph Stalin reversed most of Lenin's abortion policy in order to contribute to the Soviet Union's population growth</i>
1936	<i>The French Penal Code was redefined to authorize abortion in order only to save a woman's life</i>

1948	<i>The abortion circumstances in Japan was expanded by the Eugenic Protection Act</i>
1955	<i>Abortion was recognized as a crime under all conditions in South Korea by the 1953 Criminal Code</i>
1955	<i>Abortion was legalized again in the Soviet Union under De-Stalinization act</i>
1959	<i>A modal state abortion law was acquired by the American Law Institute in order to make legal abortions more accessible</i>
1966	<i>Mississippi redacted their abortion laws and became the first U.S. state to allow abortion in cases of rape</i>
2021	<i>Thousands of women protested against the increased limitations over abortion in the USA</i>
2021	<i>Protests in against the Polish Government started after the redactions on the abortion policies that caused a pregnant women's death</i>

Possible Solutions

Some possible solutions for this issue may consist of passing laws and legislations to legalize abortion. Other than that, to decrease the amount of unwanted pregnancies, there needs to be a greater inclusion of women in the workforce, thus more jobs for females must be formed.

To add, the public needs to be educated upon the issue, thus having info sessions or broadcasting the issue on television may be a possible way to do so; this would also help women become more educated on the health implications of abortion.

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