

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS



Open Access, Refereed Journal Multi Disciplinary
Peer Reviewed Edition :

www.ijlra.com

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ISSN

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ABORTION LAWS IN INDIA

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Abstract

Abortion till date has been one of the most controversial matters in the arena of biomedical ethics. It's a subject that has been heavily bandied around the world and holds extremely divergent opinions as far its legitimacy is concerned. The question girding this matter is whether it falls under the horizon of the Indian Constitution or has it failed to meet the criteria of being recognised as an abecedarian right. In the Indian Penal Code, 1860, abortion, which is stated as "Causing Confinement" is considered as a corrective offence. Among numerous other rights that women have been granted in India, right to abortion must be given as equal weight as the Right to conceive a child and get pregnant. The Right to abortion clearly falls under the horizon of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution as does the Right to live with quality and make free choices unless they intrude with the current procedure of law. Article 21 of the Indian Constitution ensures that every person within the public home of the Indian nation is guaranteed with the Right to life and particular liberty except according to procedure established by law. In the case of revocation, the woman inversely enjoys the Right to life and make free choices upon what she wants to do with her body, as any other citizen of India. Also, subscribing to a major scientific belief, a foetus is not a factual human being. It has an eventuality of being a mortal being but it actually isn't. Bringing into pictures. Shop's element in his essay on liberty', abortion, is still, a tone- regarding action. Abortion has to be legalised under the Indian Constitution for these specific groups. This paper is an attempt to look into colourful reasons why Abortion should be given legal recognition in India and a relative analysis of revocation laws in colourful countries. The end is to prove that the Right to Abortion falls under the horizon of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Abortion has been looked at through the viewpoint of Human Rights.

Keywords: Abortion, Article 21, Indian Constitution, Right to Abortion

Laws Governing Abortion in India

The Indian Penal Code, 1860:

The Indian Penal Code, 1860, taking into consideration the social, emotional and medical counteraccusations of abortion, declares convicted abortion as illegal all throughout India. Section 312 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 spells out abortion as “causing confinement”. It applies to a woman who carries out confinement on purpose. still, the word “Abortion” is nowhere used in this section. revocation would give “confinement” a substance of “intention”. Confinement technically would mean robotic revocation, whereas, freely causing confinement, which is criminalised under Section 312, will stand for felonious abortion. A clear division among the two is lacking. still, the same section declares remedial abortion as legal. In case there’s peril pertaining to the life of the mother, the gestation can be discontinued. The future child in the womb mustn't be destroyed unless the destruction is for the sole purpose to save the life of the mother.

Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971:

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 further talks about the situations where a therapeutic abortion can be carried out by a registered medical practitioner. The act highlights in what situations can a pregnancy be terminated, the stipulated time such a pregnancy will be terminated, in what place will this termination take place, and who is authorised to conduct such a termination.

According to the act, a pregnancy can only be terminated under a few circumstances, such as, in situations where the continuation of a pregnancy would involve risks to the life of the mother, or involve grave physical or mental injury to the woman. The act also spells out voidable pregnancies such as in case of a lunatic woman. Further, the act specifies who is a registered medical practitioner and in what place will the termination of the pregnancy be carried on. The act also states that the pregnancy can be terminated in 12 weeks of pregnancy and the opinion of two or more medical practitioners is required if the abortion is done between 12-20 weeks for various reasons.

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1. The continuance of abortion would be a threat to the life of the pregnant woman
2. A threat of grave injury to her physical or internal health
3. If the abortion is caused by rape
4. still, if the child were born, it would suffer from physical or internal abnormalities, if there exists a substantial threat that.

The Constitution of India:

Though nebulous and unclear, the Constitution of India also talks about the idea of revocation. As stated ahead, the Right to revocation might come under the Article 21, if subordinated to interpretations. Article 21 dictates the Right to life and particular liberty. It can also be understood that a woman, who has been given such a right, might enjoy her particular liberty and alter her body in any way she can. She might do anything to her body, to suit her own conditions. She has the full rights to her body, and her decision should be sole and final, if she wants to continue with her abortion or not.

Law Governing Abortion beyond India

United States of America:

The women in the United States of America didn't always have the honor to repeal their children; in fact, it came only in the time 1973 as a Supreme Court decision in the case Roe v. Wade in Texas. In this corner case, an unattached, pregnant woman in Texas, Norma McCorvey, who's also the complainant, sought an abortion. But she was denied under Texas abortion laws. She also filed a civil action under the alias "Jane Roe", challenging the Texas law as unconstitutional. Roe began to argue that the Texas abortion law which is denying her of carrying on with her abortion is inching upon her right to sequestration and that particular law should be looked upon. The Court, in a 7- 2 maturity agreed upon Roe's idea but still, declared that the countries' only objective thing's to cover the pregnant woman and the implicit mortal life. The Court held that the fetus isn't a mortal being that could be defended by the Constitution and therefore, legalized abortion. The Court declared that abortion cannot be done in the third trimester, because the function of the state as a protection of the pregnant woman and the future child would outweigh the woman's right to sequestration.

United Kingdom:

Abortion in the United Kingdom is guided under the Abortion Act, 1967. The Act allows for remedial abortion for over to 24 weeks. still, if there's a substantial threat to the health of the pregnant woman or if there are any foetal abnormalities, there's no time limit. For an abortion to be conducted, the view of one or further certified, registered croakers is taken into consideration, to examine if there are any valid medical grounds to continue with the revocation. still, in practice, it's assured by the Department of Health, that the croakers permission abortions without genuine medical grounds, where there's a presence of other genuine reasons.

A Comparative Analysis

The abortion laws in USA and UK are far more different and divergent than the laws in India. In the United States, the laws are more woman-centric. A woman's right to sequestration is given further weight than the bare society.² The Supreme Court held that an abortion can be conducted before the third trimester of the pregnancy. The third trimester is when the foetus starts feeling pain, and starts advancing. In the third trimester, the function of the State as a protection of the pregnant woman and the future child will overweigh the particular liberty and sequestration of the pregnant woman. But in India, the ultimate power is held by the medical interpreters, who are to permission the abortion in "good faith". But that leaves a lot of room for abuse of similar power. An abortion can be conducted within 12 weeks of pregnancy and from within 12 to 20 weeks with the medical opinion of two medical interpreters. Then, the woman's access to abortion will be limited. Abortion in India isn't seen as a "right".

There are certain target groups who seek abortion further than ever, like ignorant teenagers, sex workers, rape victims and people who prefer the manly child over womanish. There's no point in continuing with a pregnancy, where the mother is unintentional to accept the child. In cases where the parents seek a manly child, the life of the womanish child is rather plaguing. The child is devoid of all care and nutrition because the parents were more set to supply for a manly child, and not a womanish child. In cases where the mother of the child is a rape victim, or an ignorant teenager, continuing with the pregnancy will only beget overdue pressure on the internal or physical health of the mother. The mother won't be suitable to accept the child in the dawn of the society and therefore will be subordinated to social boycott, which would further trickle down the mother's internal peace. In the United Kingdom, the reported abortions have been done on grounds other than medical, which suggest us the idea that the Health Department of the country focuses on sanctioning as important abortions so as to save the physical and internal health of a woman. In India, people fail to understand the sequestration of a woman. They fail to understand that the woman, indeed if pregnant, is still the sole decision-maker of what she wants to do with her own body. Whether she wants to nurture the future child, or not, is solely her decision and no bone differently'. The laws made in India are an encroachment to her right to life and particular liberty, right to quality and the right to sequestration. still true it might be that legalizing abortion would lead to abuse of such a law, but it's rather easier to repeal the future child than to ruin their

² Roe V. Wade, 410 US 113 (1973)

life when they're born and grown.

Conclusion:

When comparing the abortion laws of USA, UK and India, the experimenter set up out that the laws in India aren't liberal enough for a woman, and therefore give woman limited rights upon her body. India, at this point of time, should take a woman's opinion into consideration and therefore make similar liberating laws that allow a woman to make free and liberal choices upon what she wants to do with her body. The status of a future child is nowhere recognized under any Indian enactment. Further, emphasis should be placed into proving that the Right to abortion comes under Article 21 of Indian Constitution.

