

ABSTRACT

RIGHT TO ABORTION AND BODILY AUTONOMY: A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

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The debate regarding abortion rights cuts across a vast number of areas, a few of them being religious ideologies, human rights and feminism. The debate is never ending and encompasses a large number of questions, most of them involving the extent of rights of the mother with respect to the foetus, the rights of the foetus in question, the extent to which state authority can extend to personal decisions, etc. A closer look at the debate regarding abortions offers us a perspective into the human rights violations that occur to millions of women across the globe due to the prohibition of abortion in certain countries.

The prohibition of abortion in various countries is firmly rooted in religious beliefs that condemn the same. This, in turn, has had far-reaching impacts on the reproductive rights of women across the globe and also effectively strips them of their right to make their own decisions, thereby curtailing bodily autonomy. This paper will focus on the rights of women to obtain safe and legal abortions from a feminist perspective, and will examine the famous case laws regarding the same, delivered by the American Supreme Court as well as the European Court of Human Rights. Furthermore, this paper will look into the aspect of the right to abortion as a human right and the need for the right to abortion to be seriously incorporated within the fundamental rights of the country. This will be done keeping in mind the international framework that has been developed through various conventions regarding human rights and women's rights. Lastly, the growing need for the right to a safe abortion to be recognised will be extensively discussed, along with the women's right to choice.