

ABSTRACT

**WOMEN'S RIGHT AND PRENATAL PROTECTIONS – SUPERIORITY OF
MOTHER'S INTEREST FUNDAMENTAL TO LIFE**

****Udit Raj Sharma & Shubhaa Payasi¹**

The development of human rights jurisprudence, especially about women's rights has reached a pinnacle stage. An emerging trend to extend a right to life before birth, and in particular from conception, poses a significant threat to women's human rights; in theory and in practice. These efforts, often rooted in ideological and religious motivations are part of a deliberate attempt to deny women the full range of reproductive health services that are essential to safeguarding women's fundamental rights to life, health, dignity, equality, and autonomy, among others. These attempts to grant a right to life before birth—and therefore recognize prenatal legal personhood—seek to bestow rights on a zygote, embryo, or fetus that would be equal or superior to the rights of women. In many cases, these measures aim to outlaw any procedure that terminates a pregnancy. When States protect a right to life before birth without regard for women's rights, inconsistencies in law arise that jeopardize women's fundamental rights while doing little to protect prenatal life or existing children.

The research makes the case study of an Indian National Savita Halappanavar's unfortunate death and Irish anti-abortion law. The research further highlights whether the world in general and Ireland in specific has learnt a lesson from this unfortunate incident thereby highlighting the clash between the anti-abortion laws and the inherent reproductive or in essence basic human rights of the women. The research concludes that there are a number of steps that States can and should take to promote a legitimate interest in prenatal life while respecting women's fundamental rights.

KEYWORDS: Human Rights, Dignity, Women, Children , Prenatal life

¹ 5th Year, Law Student at University of Petroleum & Energy Studies, Dehradun