



REVIEW ARTICLE ON MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY ACT 1971

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Abstract :

Termination of certain pregnancies carried out by registered medical practitioner. They improve the maternal health by preventing larger number of unsafe abortion and consequent high incidence of maternal mortality. (1)

As a population control measure since it provided for termination of unwanted pregnancy resulting from a failure of any device or method used by married women or her husband for limiting the number of children. (2)

Key words :

- 1) Abortion
- 2) Miscarriages
- 3) Termination of pregnancy
- 4) Safe and unsafe abortion (3)

Introduction :

Medical termination act was passed in 1971 with a view to provide for termination of pregnancy by registered medical practitioners. A doctor can give his or her consent or end a pregnancy at any point up to 12 weeks and two medical professionals can agree to terminate it up to 20 weeks. (2)

The Bills allows for the termination of pregnancy after 24 weeks based on the opinion of medical board in the case of substantial foetal abnormalities. (4)

Provisions of the Act :

- 1) pregnancies of women, 18 years of age or more with their consent or in case women less than 18 years of age with the written consent of their guardian.
- 2) A pregnancy of 12 weeks can be terminated two medical professional can agree to terminate up to 20 weeks.
- 3) A pregnancy which is alleged to have been caused due to rape or due to failure of a contraceptive device used by a woman or her husband for family planning purposes. (2)

Experience or Training for Terminate Pregnancy :

- 1) Experience in the practice of gynaecology and obstetrics for not less than three years.
- 2) Six months of house surgery, experience gynaecology and obstetrics in any hospital for less than 1 year.
- 3) An experience by way of assistance given by the person in the performance of twenty five cases of medical termination of pregnancy in a hospital established. (2)

Laws Relating to Termination of Pregnancy :

In India, the primary law relating to the termination of pregnancies is the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, which was subsequently amended in 1975 and 2002. It was enacted with the objective to provide for the lawful termination of pregnancies by registered medical practitioners in certain cases only

as have been laid down in the Act. The Act provides the circumstances in which a pregnancy may be terminated. It affords protection to the woman, and not the unborn child. Any protection which an unborn child may receive would only be the result of protection to the mother.

Place where Pregnancy may be Terminated :

- 1) A hospital established or maintained by Government.
- 2) A place where for the time being approved for the purpose of this act by Government.(2)

Inspection :

A Central Government appoints the Chief Medical Officer. They inspect the hospital or places where pregnancy can be terminated. They check their instruments are sterile, termination place sterilisation, all equipment used in termination are available or not.

If they are not satisfied with their condition they can reject the licence of pregnancy termination. If they are satisfied with their conditions they approve the hospital for pregnancy termination.(6)

Offences and Penalties :

The termination of a pregnancy by a person who is not a Registered Medical Practitioner is a punishable offence under the Indian Penal Code.

Any one who fails to comply with rules made under the Act or contravenes them may be fined up to ₹1000.
(2)

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