

As per PNDT Act,

1. Detection of sex of foetus during pregnancy is illegal.
2. Termination of pregnancy after identifying the sex of the foetus as female is also illegal.

It is important to remember:

- Termination of pregnancy below 20 weeks is legal under provision of MTP Act.

There are two methods of terminating the pregnancy:

### Surgical abortion

This is carried out by evacuating the embryo either using a hand held syringe or electric suction machine

### Medical abortion

This is carried out by using pills

In both cases, it has to be done by a qualified doctor in any approved centre. Women undergoing MTP can get more details from PHC. There are advantages/disadvantages of both methods. In both cases, there has to be post-abortion care for the women undergoing MTP.

### Post-abortion care

- Follow up after abortion is a must especially after the tablets are given for medical abortion.
- If the woman has any of the following symptoms, she should be immediately referred to the nearest functional FRU/District hospital.
  - Severe bleeding or foul smelling discharge from uterus
  - Severe pain in abdomen
  - Fever
  - Swelling in the abdomen or severe vomiting

Counselling of the women will help them to seek safe abortions which will help in decreasing deaths among pregnant women. After an induced abortion, a woman can become pregnant again within six weeks. Hence, it is advisable for the woman (and her partner) to be counselled for appropriate contraception and help them to get the suitable contraceptive if they wish to adopt.