



6

Unsafe Abortions & Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP)

You know that sometimes unwanted pregnancies occur. In such cases, the family or woman may want to abort the pregnancy. For this termination, pregnant women often go to untrained persons, dais etc. The methods employed by them for termination are not safe and the facilities are unhygienic. Hence, there is a great risk to the life of these women. You can educate such women with unwanted pregnancies about the dangers of these illegal, unsafe abortions. Such women should be able to confirm whether they are pregnant and if so, they can seek safe and legal abortion at a government health centre or government approved private hospital.

Abortions have been legalized since 1971 under certain conditions, as given in under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act ("MTP" Act). Such abortions can be carried out up to the fifth month (20 weeks) of pregnancy.

Government primary health centres can carry out abortion till eight weeks (2 months), while for an abortion after this period, a woman would have to go a hospital. Abortions done early in pregnancy are also safer than those carried out later. Hence, the woman should not wait till her pregnancy has advanced.