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**RESPONSE TO REVIEW COMMENTS:**

**Please find the author response in red.**

Reviewer 1:

The abortion laws - creating barriers - Jain Tronic paper reads well.

1. I think there is originality in the paper.

2. It does analyse the laws well to bring out the inherent conflicts in the law.

3. The conclusion also raises some interesting points.

4. The authors have looked at the laws and policies in India. They may not have looked at the PCPNDT Act on purpose. They should reduce the length of the paper.

Yes. We decided to look at only three legislations and we mention that clearly in the introduction. We have edited the paper to make it comprehensive.

5. The paper does look at the topic holistically and could make an impact.

Reviewer 2:

1. The article is well written and relevant to medical ethics.It could be an initial step in addressing legislative change.
2. There are articles, blogs etc on the conflicting provisions of POCSO, MTP and the rights of minors. So it is not really new.

While there are blogs on this article, this is the first comprehensive article on access to safe abortion of adolescent girls as mentioned by the first reviewer. A paragraph has been added in the introduction to emphasize on this aspect. The conclusion has been revised as well.

1. As this is a legal perspective, mention of a few landmark judgments of the Supreme Court would enhance the article.

A few Supreme Court judgements have been added.

Editorial comment:

**References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text.** They should appear within parentheses in the text, and not in superscript, with the full list of references at the end of the article. The journal follows the ICMJE’s Uniform Requirements for references. Repeat citation will have the same original number repeated with Section/Para number in brackets eg: (4: Sec 3a)

The References have been reworked according to the journal format.