***Introduction***

Abortion is a highly controversial topic for our society. The abortion debate deals with the rights and wrongs of deliberately ending a pregnancy before normal childbirth, killing the fetus in the process.

This is a very painful topic for women and men who find themselves facing the moral dilemma of whether or not to terminate a pregnancy. It's one of the most polarizing moral issues - most people are on one side or the other, very few are undecided.

The central ethical question in the abortion debate is over the moral status of the embryo and fetus. Opinions range from the belief that the fetus is a human being with full moral status and rights from conception to the belief that a fetus has no rights, even if it is human in a biological sense

Still the abortion debate deals with the rights and wrongs of deliberately ending a pregnancy before normal childbirth, killing the fetus in the process.

***Why abortion is a controversial issue in the world?***

In this current world we still fell hesitate to talk about abortion as it is still a very painful topic for women and men who find themselves facing the moral dilemma of whether or not to terminate a pregnancy. It's one of the most polarizing moral issues - most people are on one side or the other, very few are undecided.

**The primary questions**

The moral debate about abortion deals with two separate questions:

* [**Is abortion morally wrong?**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/philosophical/introduction.shtml)

In general sense we can say that killing actual persons is wrong because it unjustly deprives victims of their future; that the fetus has a future similar in morally relevant respects to the future lost by competent adult homicide victims, and that, as consequence, abortion is justifiable only in the same circumstances in which killing competent adult human beings is justifiable. The metaphysical claim implicit in the first premise, that actual persons have a future of value, is ambiguous. The Future Like Ours argument (FLO) would be valid if "future of value" were used consistently to mean either "potential future of value" or "self-represented future of value", and FLO would be sound if one or the other interpretation supported both the moral claim and the metaphysical claim, but if, as I argue, any interpretation which makes the argument valid renders it unsound, then FLO must be rejected. Its apparent strength derives from equivocation on the concept of "a future of value". So keeping the future value of fetus ae can believe that the abortion is morally wrong.

* **Should abortion be** [**legal or illegal**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/legal/when_1.shtml)**?**

In the most developed world, abortion is legally allowed for women seeking safe termination of pregnancies. Particularly, when access to legal abortion is restricted, abortion is the resort to unsafe methods. The aim of this review is to necessitate safe abortion and to accentuate the consequences of illegal abortion in case of legal prohibition. We used PubMed, Medline and Scopus databases to review previous literatures of safe, unsafe, legal and illegal abortions. Research work and reports from organizations such as World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank (WB) and United Nations (UN) were included. Snowball sampling was used to obtain relevant journals. Abortion is conventional whether it is safe, unsafe, legal or illegal. The intention of the antiabortion policy was to reduce the number of abortions globally. However, instead of decreasing rates, evidences show significant increase in abortions. When abortion is legal, the preconditions to be ensured are availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability for the safe abortion facilities. When abortion is illegal, risk reduction strategies are needed to decrease maternal morbidity and mortality. We can reduce abortion related morbidity and mortality, whether it is legal or illegal if we can ensure the appropriate access to health care, including abortion services, education on sexuality, access to contraceptives, post abortion care, and suitable interventions and liberalization of laws. The paper reviewed the Mexico City Policy and the US foreign aid strategies and highlighted the evidence based analysis for policy reform. The liberalized abortion law can save pregnant women from abortion related complications and death.

**The secondary questions**

But those two questions don't end the debate.

If we conclude that abortion is morally wrong, that doesn't mean that it's always impermissible to have an abortion; we need to ask whether having an abortion is less wrong than the alternatives.

**The two sides**

On one side are those who call themselves 'pro-life'. They say that intentionally caused abortion is always wrong (although it may on very rare occasions be the best thing to do).

On the other side are those who call themselves 'pro-choice' or 'supporters of abortion rights', and who regard intentional abortion as acceptable in some circumstances.

**The silent 'victim'**

People feel particularly strongly about abortion because there is no way of getting any opinion from the fetus - the potential 'victim' - about the issue and because the fetus can easily be portrayed as an entirely innocent and defenseless being.

**The issues:**

***1. Non-religious argument***

The non-religious argument about abortion covers several issues, such as:

* What gives a being the right to life?
* [Is a fetus a human being?](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/philosophical/moralperson.shtml)
* Is a fetus the sort of being that has a right to life?
* Is a fetus a separate being from its mother?
* If the fetus has a right to life, does that right take priority over the mother's right to control her own body?

***2. Religious arguments***

Many religious believers are likely to have great sympathy with the arguments that a person should be able to decide what happens to their own body, but for them the idea that life is sacred may outweigh other arguments, however well.

**Arguments for abortion**

* A woman has the right to choose whether or not she wants to have the baby. It is her body.
* In the case of rape, it would be lacking in compassion to deny a woman the right to an abortion.
* The woman might be too young, or have work or family commitments which make bringing up a child difficult or impossible for her.
* The pregnant woman's health and welfare are more important than that of the embryo or fetus.
* The pregnant woman's life is more important than that of the embryo or fetus.
* The embryo or fetus does not have the same rights as the mother.
* The quality of life of the unborn child or the woman's existing children could be adversely affected by the birth.
* Stopping legal abortions would mean a return to 'back street' abortions, causing a great deal of suffering to the health and wellbeing of the woman. Abortion could therefore be the lesser of two evils.

**Arguments against abortion**

* Roman Catholics believe that life begins at conception and therefore abortion is morally wrong. Most Protestant churches in Britain also view abortion as a moral wrong, but concede that there are some limited conditions when it can be allowed.
* Every human being, including an embryo or fetus, has the right to live and to reach their potential.
* There are alternatives to abortion,
* The unborn child is denied choice.
* Abortion destroys human life and makes life appear cheap and disposable. This affects the quality and value of life.
* People born with disabilities can live full and happy lives.

***3. Doctor’s point of view***

The problems can be restated in terms of the sort of decisions that pregnant women and their doctors have to face:

* [Does the fetus have a right](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/philosophical/right.shtml) to be carried in the woman's womb until it's ready to be born?
* Under what circumstances, if ever, can we take an 'innocent' human life?
* Is any other right more important than the right to life - for example, a [woman's right](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/abortion/mother/introduction.shtml) to decide what to do with her own body?
* If the woman's life is in danger because of the pregnancy, how do we decide whose rights should prevail?

***4. Political view on abortion***

In political view point it presents as well as defends the "conservative" position on abortion, explains that this position holds that

* + Abortion is wrong because it destroys the fetus;
  + The fetus has full personhood from conception (or very near conception);
  + Abortion is only justified under special circumstances, such as when the pregnancy poses a threat to the woman's life; and
  + These conclusions should be reflected in law and public policy.

The labels applied to the abortion debate are examined, and it is suggested that "communitarian" is the best term for the conservative position.

***5. Ethical dilemmas***

The central ethical question in the abortion debate is over the moral status of the embryo and fetus. Opinions range from the belief that the fetus is a human being with full moral status and rights from conception to the belief that a fetus has no rights, even if it is human in a biological sense. There are a range of moral and ethical issues which may arise about unplanned pregnancy and abortion. At the Pregnancy Advisory Centre we support a woman or pregnant person’s right to make their own decision about their pregnancy, based on their unique circumstances, in relation to their own personal values. This information is not intended to tell a pregnant person what they should think about abortion, it aims to explore some the ideas and dilemmas that some people face when making a decision about an unplanned pregnancy.

The main 2 debates are

* **Is the Embryo/ Fetus a Person?**

The pregnancy is a form of life, however there is debate around when a pregnancy becomes a person. There is not just one answer to this question and the answer varies depending on your personal views. Some common thoughts in the community include: o when conception takes place, however it is unclear when this actually occurs. Is it when the sperm enters into the egg, or six days later when the fertilized ovum beds into the lining of the uterus or is it at some other stage? o At quickening, which is when the first fetal movement can be felt (approximately 18 – 20 weeks) o When the pregnancy becomes viable and can survive outside the woman or pregnant persons’ body (this too is quite complex) o When the head or the greater portion of the fetus has been born o Once the pregnant person makes a decision to continue the pregnancy o When God infuses or breathes soul into the embryo, fetus or baby o When the pregnancy develops thoughts/feelings/consciousness

And another one is

* **Is Abortion Murder?**

Murder is a legal concept that describes the unlawful killing of a living person. The law regarding abortion do not refer to it as murder rather it is considered healthcare. The pregnancy can either be viewed as part of the pregnant persons’ body or a separate individual with rights.  People who oppose abortion under any circumstance often use the term ‘murder’ to describe abortion. The use of this term is not legally or medically correct. When people describe abortion as murder it often says more about how they feel about abortion than what it is.

The most common form of the case for banning abortion goes like this:

* deliberately killing innocent human beings is wrong
* a fetus is an innocent human being
* abortion is the deliberate killing of a fetus
* therefore abortion is the deliberate killing of an innocent human being
* therefore, abortion is wrong

If we follow this argument and accept that a fetus has a right to live, then we face part two of the problem:

* abortion is wrong unless it serves some right of the mother that is as morally important as the fetus' right to life
* the right to life outweighs another person's right to control her own body
* therefore abortion is wrong unless it serves some greater right of the mother than the right to control her own body
* the only such right is the mother's right to live
* therefore abortion is wrong unless it is to save the life of the mother

**Conclusion:**

After analyzing all the facts and point of views we can say that the ethical dilemma of abortion can appear selfish by nature because it revolves around a self-centered concern. Thus, whichever beliefs of what is right and wrong one settles as his/her base for morality, choices and consequences are what in the end outline