

# Forced Abortion Degrades Women

Many married women want to have children, but are forced to have abortions by their husbands. Seema (name changed) of Chabahil, Kathmandu, was married at the age of 23 to Raju, and became pregnant after some months. "We do not need a child now, we'll get it after some time again," said her husband, forcing her to abort the child. After some months she again got pregnant. She wanted to give birth. "It is not the right time," her husband said again, and made her abort the child.

On the other hand, Raju's family members told Seema that they would make him remarry if she could not produce a child. Seema says, "This behavior of Raju made me mentally and physically weak, but Raju had no any problem regarding this." Presently, Seema is pregnant. She desperately wants to be a mother, but is afraid that she "would get a miscarriage if my husband beat me to abort a child."

Like Seema, Leela Regmi (name changed) of Kausaltar, Bhaktapur says, "I love children, but my husband doesn't like them." She was married almost 10 years ago and works as a college principal. Till now she has no child, and since she was married, she has had 11 abortions due to her husband's pressure. "My husband thinks about the process of getting pregnant and giving birth in a negative way. So he forces me to get an abortion time and again," she says. She is getting physically weak. According to the doctor blood in her body is decreasing in quantity.

Originally from Sindhupalchowk and presently living in Jadibuti, Anita Tamang (name changed) shares similar distress. Four years ago, she eloped with a builder and got married. Her husband has forced her to have four abortions, and she is childless. All three women say their

husbands refuse to use precaution because the men "don't get pleasure with it."

We see the law under Right to Life, 10, 28(a) states that any pregnant women cannot be forced to have an abortion. Those people who force a woman to do so will be punished for 5 years of imprisonment.

Dr. Shilu Acharya of Bir Hospital says, "Having an abortion time and again can lead to serious health conditions and even death. Because of forced abortions, women will get mental and physical stress about which only they know. Male members will not be able to understand it. There are many precautions available in the market, and they should be used in a proper way."

Sonu Sakya, SASANE Paralegal

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