

Sushila -

Life useful educational material for adolescents - 4
Abortion



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Life useful educational material for adolescents ④

This educational material has been prepared to impart life useful education to adolescents. This material comprises of four flip books which are to be used along with CHETNA's publication - Child Birth Picture Book, available in various Indian languages. Use these flipbooks chronologically.

How to use this flip book

- Hold this flip book by both the hands carefully. Ensure that the illustrations face the group. Take care that the illustrations are not hidden by your hands.
- When the illustrations are facing the group, you will be able to see the writings relevant to the illustrations. To attract the group's attention make the story interesting by narrating it with expressions.
- When you are telling the story, kindly point out with your finger the characters and incidents, in the illustrations. This will help the group to concentrate.
- On the last page of this flip book, some questions have been given. Kindly initiate discussions with the help of these questions.

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CHETNA Team

Abortion

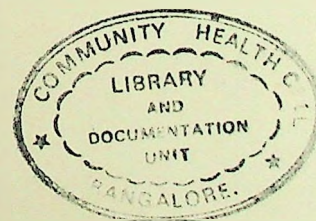
Abortion is often considered a sin or a crime, but one must not forget that it is a bigger crime to be instrumental in leading an entire family in a permanent state of deprivation or bringing someone to life and later not being able to provide even the basic needs like love, affection, food and shelter. One must very critically examine ones own definition of life. Whether giving life is important or giving a quality life is important.

It is therefore important to avoid unwanted pregnancy, but if the couple ends up with an unwanted pregnancy, they can go to the Primary Health Care Centres as soon as possible for the abortion.

They should not resort to witch doctors, indigenous medicines, or some home-remedies tactics. Because if abortion is not done in a hygienic and scientific way, it may result in vaginal/uterus infections. There is also the fear of rupture of uterus and heavy bleeding.

It should be realised that bringing a child to earth is a major responsibility. It is not enough merely to give birth; appropriate care, food, education, nurturance and fosterance is necessary. This can be done either by keeping a gap between two children (by the use of contraceptive of the couple's choice) or by limiting their number (by permanent operation, vasectomy or tubectomy).

But one must not forget that abortion is not a family planning method. Frequent abortions may result in anaemia, infections, weakness and other complications for the woman's health.



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WH 145

I am Sushila. My husband is a farmer and we have three children. Due to lack of information on contraceptives we had three children one after another, immediately after marriage. My children were born weak. I am also undernourished. I spend the whole day taking care of my children. I do not get any opportunity to work outside, which I regret. At present we are using condom (To explain about contraceptives please refer Child Birth Picture Book).



Due to the failure of contraceptive I am pregnant again. I am not keeping well. I am not looking forward to this child.

My relatives say that children are the gifts of God and we should accept them. I feel strongly that with the birth of one more child, my health will further deteriorate. Also my dream to get involved in economic activities would never come true. After a lot of thinking I have decided to go for an abortion.



I talked to my husband about this. I explained to him that we already had three children. They were weak. If we had been careful earlier and used contraceptives to keep gap between two children, our children would have been healthier. I would have been able to earn for the family. If we had one more child, we would not be able to take care of our children. My husband got convinced and agreed for an abortion.



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CWHHS



We went to a hospital and got the fourth child aborted. My husband has also started helping me in my housework, and so my workload has reduced considerably. We are happy now.

After narrating the story initiate the discussion on following questions.

- Should we keep on having children because they are God's gifts?
- Is abortion a sin?
- Is abortion a method of family planning?

