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Baby's Anger- I Don't Want to Listen My Husband

Sudha, PhD Research Scholar, Gender Studies, University of Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Baby was a 23 year old woman from a rural Telangana region who was married at the age of 21 years to a 27 year old man who was a clerk in a local government office. Baby had experienced two consecutive untimely pregnancies within the two years of her marriage. She had undergone abortion for second pregnancy and in her narration of this incident experience reflected her anguish and depression state of mind. In this real incident story tells about Baby's firmness in her attitude towards putting her stand strongly in front her husband for not wanting unplanned pregnancy to continue and would go for abortion as soon as it can be. But her husband was also very firm for not allowing her going for abortion then she was forced to carry the unwanted pregnancy. In the story Baby was showing all anger over her husband and conceived the perception of her husband as 'worse than any other common man of the village and similar to any other like an uneducated man'. Baby who was seen fought with her husband and refused to take another burden of pregnancy in short span from the last one.

Baby recalled her story with the visit details to a local woman doctor on her first time pregnancy breaking news. She begins by saying that, when I went to Shamla doctor ma'am (local women doctor running a health clinic) when started not feeling and getting morning sickness. Their doctor madam asked me to go for a urine check up and after this, my pregnancy test came positive and I was seven pregnant. I was very upset to hear this news doctor madam saying to me. I asked there and then doctor to please give some tablets to stop





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this pregnancy. On hearing this, Doctor asked me to bring my husband or mother in law to get their permission then she can give tablets to her. Doctor Madam asked me to go home and told me to think again before doing abortion and also asked to talk to my husband before taking any decision to go for abortion. I went home and cried a lot. I had called my husband over his mobile phone at his office and told all the matter. He came in the evening and told me directly to carry this pregnancy and no question of abortion. He said why you want to spend money on doing abortion. The abortion can also affect your health and it would be dangerous too. Baby kept on saying that, I never want to listen to my husband, as he had never shown any interest in living a good marriage life.

She told it was very hard for me as I was married at the 21 years and got pregnant immediately and then within the year of the first baby delivery I got pregnant again. She had criticized her mother in law too who was living with them and said 'My mother in law is a shameless woman. She had told me so many bad things when I was going through this unwanted pregnancy and later too when I had an abortion. She understood as I had willingly done abortion and was not listening to my husband and went for abortion against his will. She told me if you want don't want to get pregnant and then don't live with my son also. She told 'my mother in law never understood that why I had an abortion'.

I did not want to listen, my husband, as he had never shown any interest in living a good marriage life. Due to tension I was living with unfortunately from the seven weeks twelfth week onwards I had developed pregnancy-related health complications and blood spotting too started surfacing due to some health disorder developed in the uterus. I and my husband had lot of times quarrel and he used to slap me when I argued with him or when I





did not listened him. I was under a lot of stress after seeing my husband's bad behavior. He had almost stopped talking with me. He had talked only the times when we had a fight on family matters.

Later due to increased health complications became difficult to carry the pregnancy further. Then I finally took the decision to choose one of the option suggested by the doctor after seeing my health conditions deteriorating day by day that whether to opt for the discontinuation of pregnancy or to take the intensive medical treatment continuously till the end of the pregnancy tenure in order have a baby and needed the full bed rest for me. I had chosen the decision to have an abortion rather than going for treatment which I found very costly and could not afford the kind of bed rest and other comforts I required in order to continuing with the pregnancy. I had to look after the infant baby and to run around the household chores without having much support at my husband's place... "I am happy that I got over with this."

Now I am taking pills monthly wise and will continue till I don't want to have next pregnancy. My husband is very upset over this abortion matter. But it was destined that I would not have this pregnancy in my fate so it had also fallen down from my body. I imagined after marriage me and my husband would go for the honeymoon trip to Oty or Tirupati and would have a lot of fun. I thought as my husband was a government employee so he would be modern like a city man. But this was never been the case. He was always very simple and a silent person. He had never talked to me about using any form of family planning method. I also don't know much about using various other family planning methods. Also I don't think my husband too would be very interested or straight forward to talk about



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this rather he would dislike me to talk on this. After my first delivery, I had told him clearly that I don't want the next child now and we will have at least two to three years gap. But we never used any prevention during sex. When my husband was never interested in following the family planning measures how I can be then. But whenever we had sex I had it as unwanted with no compassion. Besides I was always lived in the fears of getting pregnant again. But after coming back from my mother's place after post delivery after eight months it was not easy to keep your husband away from you from having sex. But every time I had warned him that now I don't want to get pregnant again and want to go for spacing but he was not paying any attention to it. And also he did not allow me to have a discussion on it. On this matter, I found my husband was neither cooperative nor an approachable person with you can talk or raise you concerns regarding our sexual lives. This was the mistake I had committed. I think now why I had not gone myself to the doctor and started taking pills to prevent the pregnancy. I was aware of all this but remained ignorant by thinking that my husband would not like this or he could have talked to me first from his side on this. Man is always careless towards women's sexual needs or their body wellness. They live in their own world and make women to live a miserable life of what they want us to live and control our lives in their

My husband did not changed even after we had big fights on not having another child now. Now only on the grounds of my poor health, he was fine with me taking contraceptive pills. Let's see how long I can continue taking pills. I want my little son to grow older up to three years. Now I am taking pills monthly wise and will continue till I don't want to have next pregnancy. My husband is very upset over this abortion matter. But it was destined that I





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would not have this pregnancy in my fate so it had also fallen down from my body. I want to have a sex life with my husband without the fear of getting pregnant and to have this enjoyment in our relationship.