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## **Role of pharmaceutical industry in killing humanity & fostering social disorganization**

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**Abstract**--Westernization has deeply affected the Indian society by discarding morality, values and ethics. In a traditional Indian Society almost all human actions, behavior and even relationships were well defined and kept under limitations. Restricted and legalized way of sexual relation, that too after solemnization of legal marriage, was in practice. Since the relationship was legal, birth of children used to be a celebration and no place was for abortion or for termination of pregnancy. Modern India is totally different. Now sexual relations without marriage is a fashion and unwanted pregnancy is not a big issue. The credit goes to pharmacy sector which has invented and produced a series of contraceptives like caps, condoms, combined pills, implant, injections etc. These are the primary level of protections and if fails, secondary level is also there. Now a person without any prescription can purchase a pregnancy test kit from a medical store and test pregnancy easily. If the result is positive, pharmacy again assists by providing abortion pills etc. which works from the first day of pregnancy to 20 weeks. Though Indian laws allow termination of pregnancy only under legally defined circumstances yet unrestricted availability of such fetus killing medicines in open market is the contribution of pharmacy and thus becomes responsible for this fetus killing and also for fostering societal disorganization. This needs strict regulation, though progressive pharmacy was never meant for this.

The authors have tried to present the legal issues and challenges with their probable solutions under law.

**Keywords**--pharmacy, feticide, contraceptives, pregnancy.

## **Introduction**

In Traditional societies there were certain restrictions regarding sex mores. Unlike in primitive societies where there was only sex communism, in traditional society sex mores were strict and rigid. Every society regulated the sexual behavior in some or the other ways. It is on the basis of societal norms that the sex behavior of the people was controlled. Sexuality in traditional society was based upon the command of custom. Such type of control was considered necessary not only to law, order and moral values in society but also to maintain harmony and peace. Keeping the same in mind the institution of marriage was constituted so that the biological needs of the people could be fulfilled in a legitimized manner for the relationship outside the wedlock of marriage was considered as illegitimate and the children born out of such relationship were never accorded a legal status.

With the advancement of technology and access to social media, internet facilities etc. youth have become open minded and their values have become more of diversified. At present the perspective and attitude of the people with respect to family, marriage and sex mores have changed to a considerable extent. In global scenario premarital sexual relationship has become the voice of the day and idea behind sex relationship has been more and more discreet. At the same time unintended pregnancy brings with it stress, strains and disrupts the smooth functioning of life. Abortions may cause even more harm to the health of unmarried females. It is pathetic to state that the youth involved in such activities will be the workforce of tomorrow which will enhance the development of society. If their health and values be affected it will result in the deterioration of the moral standards of society. As it has been in European countries, Indian too is witnessing free sex. The consequence of the same is unwanted pregnancies. As per the survey conducted, around 85% of the women in the age group of 15-18 years are sexually active and in order to gratify their lust they are engaged in sex relations and the consequence of the same is early pregnancy. In order to protect oneself from this social stigma the youths not only resort to different contraceptives and birth control pills and but they do not even hesitate in adopting technologically advanced methods of terminating the pregnancies.<sup>[1]</sup>

Economic development through technology is running by leaps and bounds. Production of consumer goods has been multiplied and market is full of buyers in both modes i.e. offline and online. This technological advancement has also gave boost to the Pharmacy sector and now consumer have many option to buy required drugs not only from the traditional market but also from online medicine sellers, known as e-pharmacy .Pharmaceutical companies are sponsoring the diseases and promoting them to consumers and prescribers. It is the societal construction of illness which is replaced by corporate construction of diseases. It is rightly stated "Pharmaceutical industry selling sickness and mongering disease." In most of the societies though government is embarking and promoting

the use of contraceptives to overcome the problem of population explosion and a source of assuring optimal number of births every year but it seldom recognizes its side effects and limitations.<sup>[2]</sup> Today youth is adopting birth control pills techniques without any hesitation. Report from Newzealand indicates that around one third of the females have used birth control pills in order to avoid unwanted pregnancy before the age of 16 years. When it comes to the fact that which particular adolescents use maximum contraceptives and which all are the predictors of same, it was conserved that-<sup>[3]</sup>

- Those who consumed alcohol at an early age
- Develop the habit of smoking at an early stage
- Develop the habit of non-attending the schools or regular absentees from schools
- Problem of Conduct disorder
- Children born at an early stage
- Social Stigma a prominent reason. Stigma means disapproval, rejection or social disgrace which works as an informal control mechanism for such people who do not strictly abide by the societal norms. In a country like India since unwed mother is considered as a big social stigma the young girls, boys or college going students opt different alternative methods to terminate their pregnancies instead to carry their life with a negative label associated with a stigma of being an unwed mother.<sup>[4]</sup>

Though there may be innumerable reasons behind the same but one of the most prominent reasons behind the prominence of this problem is that they are readily available in the market and this is how pharmacy industry comes into play. These pills or contraceptives can be easily collected from any shop of Chemist without the prescription of medical practitioners. They are being misused by the people for different other purposes rather than their intended indicators. At some other places they are being used for a longer duration than its actual intended intention without the advice of any medical practitioner. Such OCPs are used after the either after the failure of contraception, unprotected sex etc. and is often taken by the victims of sexual assault in order to avoid pregnancy rates.<sup>[5]</sup> One more trend in this direction has been observed which is the use of these pills by both married couples to establish sex relations outside the wedlock of marriage, exchange of partners to enjoy free sex.<sup>[6]</sup>

### **Statement of the problem**

This problems explores the dysfunctional role of pharmaceutical companies in promoting corruption, enhancing the issue of feticide, specifically female feticide; an unheard cry and morally degrading the structure of society by supplying the birth control pills and contraceptives in an open market and through e – pharmacy platform. <sup>[7]</sup>

### **Types of contraceptives openly available in the market**

There are various products like CONDOM, OCP (Oral Contraceptive Pills), Intrauterine Device(IUD), Contraceptive Implant, Contraceptive Injection, Emergence Contraceptive Pill, Contraceptive Ring, Diaphragm and Sterilization.

### **Dysfunctional role played by pharmaceutical companies in killing humanity and spreading illness**

Pharmacy companies who should be the protectors of human beings in the hour of emergency have placed humanity on the verge of death. They are not only misleading the people but playing with the health of patients too. These pharma companies are extremely criticized in present scenario for the way their mechanism is being operated in society; there are many flaws on their part which needs to be corrected immediately. There are so many instances revealing the fact that these companies secretly supply the drugs meant for destroying the fetus or terminate the unwanted pregnancies. The main priority of pharmaceutical companies is to earn their profit in today's capitalist environment with a view to sustain their businesses irrespective of knowing its adverse effect on the health of the people in particular and on society in general. It is the pharmacy which is openly supplying various contraceptives without knowing the fact that whether people are using it genuinely or to terminate pregnancies on account of illegitimate sex relations, to kill the fetus, or to come out of a social stigma of unwanted pregnancy before marriage or in some genuine cases of emergency. At times it is observed that even the medical practitioners, scientists and even regulators support the marketing culture of pharmaceutical companies. The pharma companies spend huge amount of money in marketing their products rather than doing research on the impact of drugs on the life of human beings. These advertisements convey the message to have safe sex in order to avoid pregnancy. Some of them are like- Durex company promoting 'Do the Rex' advertisement urging the people to do the safe sex, Apollo Pharmacy company advertisement promoting an i-pill emergency contraceptive pill advertisement to avoid unwanted pregnancy, Moods and Kohinoor advertisement which urges both men and women to ignite the passion and many more.

According to the report published by Family Plannig 2020, global partnership that supports right of women and girls, over 139 million women and girls in India use modern methods of contraception. By the use of theses contraceptives around 54.5 million unintended pregnancies were prevented and 1.8 million unsafe abortions took place. At the world level 63% of women are using contraceptives for a total of 716 million women worldwide. In most of the developing countries around 19 million women are reported to resort to unsafe abortions resulting in increase in the ratio of mortality, the most dramatic consequence of unintended pregnancy.<sup>[8]</sup>

### **Contraception 2.0 through e – pharmacy platform**

E pharmacy means pharmacy services operated through internet and where orders are delivered to customers through various shipping companies or online pharmacy web portal. Today contraceptives can be more easily assessed outside the clinical settings. This new pathway adopted by the pharmacists include making the people contraceptives available without medical prescription through online platforms (tele contraception) the major influence of which was observed during the phase of Covid 19.<sup>[9]</sup> People have an option to obtain contraceptives without in person visit to chemists. A study conducted during the period of pandemic revealed the fact that women ages in between 18-24 and 25-34

constitute the maximum tele contraception users. In India around 8.2% of adolescents use modern techniques of contraception. Considering the present picture of this horrible scenario the blame of killing the inborn babies not only vests on to the shoulders of pharmaceutical companies but equally onto the regulatory authorities and official advisory authorities like the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence, the Legal System as well who fails to expose these companies, failed to make proper laws to curb this problem and overlooked the harm caused by them to humanity.

### **Conclusion**

Medicine in today's civilized world is one of the most valued and priced possessions but unfortunately it has become a murderous disaster with lot many flaws. It has failed to understand the reality that open supply of birth control pills or contraceptives is killing humanity and bringing society on the edge of deterioration. Supply of these drugs are deliberately killing the inborn babies. For every abortion means '*another murder*' and it is the pharmaceuticals companies who are performing the role which is detrimental for health and wellbeing of people.<sup>[10]</sup> Hence, there is a need to put a ban or restriction on retail sale of these drugs. As per the recommendations of Drug Consultative Committee, a meeting of the same scheduled at 20th of August at New Delhi the drug regulator clearly instructed the drug controllers of the state that a restriction on the sale of such drugs in the open market should immediately imposed. In order to avoid the misuse these kits they must be supplied only to recognized and identified centers. According to the perspective of state drug controllers these drugs are often being used by men and women frequently for the purpose of sexual intercourse but it not only causing serious side effects which at times may be fatal but simultaneously it is lowering down the moral standards of society as well. These drugs are also been used as one of the most effective technique of sex selective abortions in society.

### **Suggestions**

- There should be a restricted sale of contraceptives or emergency contraceptives and on prescription of a medical practitioner or on legitimate requirements only.
- There should be a sudden and random raid at medical stores in order to identify whether the ban is strictly followed or not.
- Sex education with moral values, ethics and culture of the society must be incorporated in education system to train the minds of youngsters.
- Self-control & notion of morality must be taught to avoid unsafe and pre mature sex.
- Mankind Pharma has voluntarily stopped the advertisement of unwanted - 72. <sup>[11]</sup> The same must be followed by other drugs selling companies.
- Strict Laws with heavy punishment must be enacted on those companies who supply such drugs in the market without the prescription of medical practitioner
- Campaigns to aware the people, ban on obscene Literature and Pornographic movies, parental care, selling of these products to married

couple only and strict surveillance of Medical Termination of Pregnancy can also be helpful in this regard.

- Pregnancy is a right under 'Personal Liberty' for a married woman. It must not be destroyed by inviting it through illegitimate relations and then terminating it through illegal means.<sup>[12]</sup>

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