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A Study of Ethical Issues Related to the Problem of Abortion

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Abstract : *The topic “A Study of the Ethical Issues Related to the Problem of Abortion” is an important contemporary social issue of philosophical concern in modern times, more so when moral and ethical considerations have become secondary and money making has become the primary motive. Abortion has been practiced almost in all societies for a variety of reasons. Various causes of abortion are unwanted pregnancy, financial crunch, lack of proper health and sex education. It is believed that 6 to 8 million induced abortions take place every year in India, which is alarming and needs to be checked. There are a number of ethical issues related to the problem of abortion. Is abortion morally wrong? Does the foetus have a right to life? Can abortion be equated with gender discrimination? With the aim of discussing these issues and finding solutions to the*

problem of abortion, an interface discussion with the help of an interview schedule was held with some eminent doctors of Patna and civilians. According to doctors, abortion is morally justified when there is a health risk or when pregnancy is the result of rape. But according to civilians common people, abortion is morally wrong and this practice should be stopped. Almost all major religions of the world prohibit abortion as it is against the commandments of God, or against the principle of procreation. In order to control the problem of abortion, there should be strict implementation of laws, implementation of proper health and sex education from primary stage of study.

Keywords: Abortion, Ethical Issues, Philosophical concern, Justification, Gender discrimination.

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Introduction:

The problem of abortion is an important issue and is a matter of philosophical concern in modern times. It is believed that 6 to 8 million induced abortions take place every year in India which is alarming and needs to be checked. An abortion is the ending of pregnancy by removing foetus or embryo before it can survive outside the uterus. An abortion that occurs spontaneously is known as miscarriage. It may be caused purposely and is then called an induced abortion, or less frequently “induced miscarriage”. Induced abortions are divided into legal and illegal abortions. Usually a therapeutic abortion carried out to save life of the mother is legal. An induced abortion is carried out in case of an unwanted pregnancy for a variety of reasons. Having discussed