

## ③ Childlessness

Diminished or absent ability to conceive & bear offspring is termed as Infertility. A couple is considered to be experiencing infertility if conception has not occurred after 12 months of sexual activity without the use of contraception. Childlessness describes a person (or couple) who does not have any children.

WHO defines infertility as follows "Infertility is the inability to conceive a child. A couple may be considered infertile if, after 2 years of regular sexual intercourse, without contraception, the woman has not become pregnant (& there is no other reason, such as breast feeding or post partum amenorrhoea). Primary infertility is infertility in a couple who have never had a child. Secondary infertility is failure to conceive

following a previous pregnancy."

Infertility is estimated to affect 10 to 15% of the population. 1 out of every 5 couples are faced with involuntary childlessness. Some estimates suggest that worldwide, between 3% & 7% of all couples or women have an unresolved involuntary childlessness for at least 1 year, range from 12% to 28%.

For most individuals childlessness has been regarded as a great personal tragedy, involving much emotional pain & grief especially when resulted from a failure to conceive or from the death of the child.

Before, for childlessness women were usually blamed and this added to the high level of negative emotional & social effect of childlessness on women. Socially childlessness has also resulted in financial stress and sometimes ruin in societies which depend on their offspring to contribute economically and support the members of the family. The way in which involuntary childless people cope with their loss is expected to influence the distress the experience and the possible symptoms related to this distress, such as health problem, anxiety, depression and bereavement people may often experience may often depression.

childlessness can be both voluntary and involuntary. Voluntary childlessness in women is defined as women of child bearing age from fertile and do not intend to have children, women who have chosen sterilization or who ~~were~~ <sup>have</sup> chosen not to have children.



Individual can be temporary childless who not have children now but want to have in future.

Involuntary childlessness refers to couple who has failed to bare a biological child even after unprotected sex after a certain period of life.

Involuntary childlessness can be two types primary & secondary.

Primary infertility is infertility where a couple who never have a child.

Secondary infertility is ~~fail~~ failure to conceive following previous pregnancy.

### Cause

Several factors are involves in both voluntary and involuntary childlessness.

Causes of voluntary —

1) Age younger women are more likely to childless ~~ness~~.

2) Race/ethnicity / Nationality The proportion of remaining voluntary childlessness differs from culture to culture.

3) Marriage & relationship Being ~~unmar~~ unmarried is the strongest predictors of childlessness and those who are married are likely to remain childless when they are marriages are in problem.

4) Socio-economic status Higher income or lack of financial resource is a reason to a remain childlessness.

5) Education | The higher the education level, the more likely a woman to remain childless.

6) Social attitude | People who avoid social responsibility and are not committed to helping others tend to remain childless.

7) Over population | Some of the child pro believe that by not having child they are saving the country from getting over populated.

Reason for involuntary childlessness —  
The causes of involuntary childlessness may be categorized (1) male causes (2) female causes (3) combined causes, (4) unexplain causes.

#### 1) Male causes

- low semen quality
- low sperm count
- Primary eitary Dyskryhasia (viable but impotial sperm)

#### 2) Female causes

- Ovulation problem
- Tubal blockage.
- Pelvic inflammatory disease.
- Advance maternal age
- uterine problem.
- Previous ligation.
- Endometriosis.
- Hormonal imbalance.
- Over weight.

#### 3) Combined causes

Genetic factors  
~~Genetic~~ Hormonal factors like diabetes, thyroid and adrenal problem.

Hypothalamic pituitary factors like hypo-

infertility presents of anti thyroid anti bodies.

- Environmental factors like excessive cigarette smoking, effects of toxins, pesticide etc.
- Lack of willingness from partner.
- Lack of appropriate resources (financial community extra).

#### 4) unexplained causes

In this cases abnormalities are likely <sup>to occur</sup> but not detected ~~current efforts~~. The possible problem could be that egg is not released at the time of fertilization, may not enter the fallopian tube sperm may not be with the egg, fertilization may fail to occur implantation ~~telling~~ etc.

#### Treatment

Treatment depends on the cause of infertility, but may include counselling and fertility like invitro fertilization (IVF), gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) and zygote intrafallopian tube transfer etc. Treatment methods infertility grouped as medical or complementary and alternative. Some methods are used in connection in the other methods. Drugs are also used for women.



~~as a condition for the.~~  
"as consideration for the marriage". Where "dowry" is defined as a gift demanded or given as a precondition for a marriage. Gifts given without a precondition are not considered dowry, and are legal. Asking or giving of dowry can be punished by an imprisonment of up to six months, or a fine of up to Rs 5000. It replaced several pieces of anti-dowry legislation that had been enacted by various Indian states.

### IPC Section 304B

This section of the Indian Penal Code was inserted by a 1986 amendment. The Dowry deaths law defines a 'dowry death' as the death of a woman caused by any burns or bodily injury or which does not occur under normal circumstances within seven years of her marriage. For a woman's death to be a dowry death, it must also be shown that soon before her death she was subjected to cruelty or harassment by her husband or any relative of her husband for or in connection with, any demand for dowry. If this is proved, the woman's husband or relative is required to be deemed to have caused her death. Whoever commits dowry death is required to be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life.

### IPC Section 498A

Whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

In practice, cruelty is taken to include the demanding of a dowry. This section is non-bailable, non-compoundable and cognizable on a report from a woman or close relative. Another example of a cognizable law in India was the Prevention of Terrorist Activities Act.

Police often ~~to~~ file charges against the husband, his parents and other relatives and put them in jail. There is no penalty for filing a false case. Many individuals have claimed this is being abused by the wife or her close relatives.