Cases Reported and Recorded: Illustrating Denial of Safe Abortion.

CASE STUDY. 1.

IMO STATE

ADEOLA: “Sometimes I feel like killing myself, I feel I should not have listened to my parents because I feel, I am useless”

Adeola is a fifteen years old girl that was gang raped during an armed robbery incident in her house. She became pregnant. She expressed her desire to abort the resultant pregnancy to her parents, but the parents refused and insisted that she should carry the pregnancy to term. Adeola carried the pregnancy to full term and delivered a baby girl. She now faces a life threatening stigmatization from family and society.

According to Adeola, during her interview section, “sometimes I felt like killing herself, and felt she should not have listened to her parents because she felt, she was useless”.

She had to drop out from school because of these. She practically struggles on her own to take care of her baby. “It has not been easy; I have to do all sorts of things to take care of my baby.

She also explained that all these are because her parents refused to listen to her request because she is just girl and should listen to her parent’s advice. She expressed with a heavy heart and tear filled eyes during her interview with us.

CASE 2

LAGOS

CHIKOMA: “I LOST MY WOMB AT THE AGE OF SEVENTEEN SEEKING ABORTION FROM A QUACK”

Chikoma was in tears as she told the story of how she lost her womb as a teenager.

Then a Senior Secondary School pupil, she was impregnated by her neighbour who was a student in one of the federal polytechnics in the country. “Confused and afraid of the consequence of my action, both I and my boyfriend approached a medicine store in Ikeja, Lagos State capital, to terminate the pregnancy,” she said. But, unfortunately, her small intestine was perforated in the process.

Sensing that she might die from chronic infection, the doctor referred her to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital where she got a proper clean-up.

Though the operation was successful, the doctors told her parents that she might not be able to become pregnant again because the infection had affected her womb.
Case 3: INCEST

NNKEUME: A 15 years old girl lost her senses while she watched the father kill her baby the product of incest.

Nkuu, as she was fondly called was impregnated by her brother, both siblings were living with their father since their mother was dead. Nkeume suggested aborting the pregnancy but the father refused because abortion is forbidden in their culture and it will bring shame and course to the family. He forced the daughter to carry the pregnancy to term. On delivering the baby, the father took the baby out and butchered. On seeing her father in this action, the girl ran mad and became mentally derailed. Till date the girl is roaming around the village squares mad