

dangerousness of abortion is minuscule, if an abortion is performed early enough and in the aseptic setting, makes reasons for free choice much more strong. The research in areas all over the world proves, that psychological consequences are rather relieving than the other way around.³ A most powerful proof based on hard data, that the suppression of abortion within legal framework brings about illegal and truly dangerous practices, has been put forward over and over again within a context of liberal view on special women's rights, which should be left untouched. Although at least for the time being, the adversaries of free abortion on demand in Slovenia scored a considerable political defeat, they continue to seek routes to at least hinder it. As in the United States, also in Slovenia an argument concerning the spending of taxpayers' money on "sexually unrestrained women" has been brought forward.⁴ In the case of USA some decisions of the Supreme Court, that took into account such arguments and made some concessions regarding the Roe v Wade act (1973), already made open access to abortion difficult especially for socially underprivileged women.

Microscopic Human Being

One could go on and on excerpting arguments of the opposing sides in a never-ending debate. However, I shall concentrate on defining the dividing line between advocates and adversaries of free abortion. Across this line, obviously no dialogue that would make sense is possible. The view, that already a microscopic pellet of cells in the first few weeks after a conception represents a human being (and even a citizen) totally excludes another view, concerning the female body, which assumes that no one but the women themselves should decide on their bodies. A view that in a small nation any waste of "already conceived children" is a loss, excludes a view that only desired children should be born.

The dividing line between the advocating of free abortion on demand and the opposite attitude marks the difference regarding a relation to sexual pleasure. However, there is no symmetry between the two opposed positions – considering the kind of argumentation, which each of them brings

3 Certainly, there are grave misuses of abortion in some culturally determined environments, for example in a number of Asian countries, where modern medical technology helps to establish the sex of foetuses, and then female ones are aborted in mass.

4 The overviews in this section of the chapter are mainly derived from the collection of articles in the book edited by Eva Bahovec-Dolar (1991) and published by a feminist group that called itself "Women for Politics".