DEBATE:

"IF THE WIFE SAYS THAT SHE WANTS NO MORE BIRTHS, BUT THE HUSBAND DOES WANT ANOTHER BIRTH, CAN ONE NECESSARILY SAY THAT HER SUBSEQUENT PREGNANCY IS UNWANTED? YES OR NO?"

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Independent researcher
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"If the wife says that she wants no more births, but the husband does want another birth, can one necessarily say that her subsequent pregnancy is unwanted? Yes or No?"

Wife’s desire versus Husband’s desire

Her own desire “now” versus Her own desire “later”?

Partner would be out of the picture (and out of the question/debate)

Timing is an important methodological issue, but not the angle I consider important here (another debate).

YES, her next pregnancy will be unwanted if she wants NO MORE births

What is at stake?

Understanding the question: my point of view - 2 different angles
**FIRST:**

**WE CAN NOT DENY**

**Complex concepts for the respondents**

The **concepts** around “wantedness” pregnancy are **VERY complex**

According to Barrett, Wellings (2002), what some women understand as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;planned&quot; and &quot;unplanned&quot;</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conscious decision, discussed with partner, measures taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accident, not discussed with partner, contraceptive failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;intended&quot; and &quot;unintended&quot;</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time dependent, wants more births (now or later)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not want to keep the pregnancy or the baby</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;wanted&quot; and &quot;unwanted&quot;</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a dislike with the term, related to abortion, or do not want the baby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FULLY PLANNED PREGNANCY IS A PROCESS FROM A RELATIONSHIP

TO MAKE MATTERS MORE COMPLICATED:

MEANINGS OF WANTEDNESS CAN VARY AROUND THE GLOBE

Let's focus on the last stage of this process of planning...

- A wanted pregnancy is that one which has a desire to become pregnant or desire to become mother/father (or to be once more)
- An unwanted is the opposite to that

Unwanted pregnancy, definition used here:

- A pregnancy that has occurred to the woman who does not want to become pregnant neither at the time of conception nor in the future.

Remember, here I am taking a micro level approach. My colleague from the “yes team” takes a macro level approach.
Why am I sure the answer to this question is yes, the pregnancy will be “unwanted”?

WITH THIS IN MIND:

WIFE’S DESIRE
VERSUS
HUSBAND’S DESIRE
PREGNANCY AND BREASTFEEDING STILL HAPPENS IN THE WOMAN'S BODY

- **Individuals’ rights** for the woman should be above man’s rights in this case

- **Reproductive rights** is a subset of human rights, and human rights are indivisible.
  - “Reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. They also include the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence.”
Let’s not forget!

BREASTFEEDING

• It takes a long period and a succession of both good and bad experiences…
  • “Breastfeeding is a journey with ups and downs”

• So…
  • It can and should be easy for some women
  • But also, it can be very difficult and become a nightmare for others
NOT EVERYTHING ABOUT PREGNANCY IS A DREAM

For better or worse, most the “harder” consequences of a next birth will be on her not him.

The list of bad outcomes of an unwanted pregnancy (by her or him) could have bad consequences for everyone, mainly for the child.
SUMMARIZING THE REASONS FROM A MICRO LEVEL APPROACH..

THE WIFE DESIRE MUST BE CONSIDERED UP FRONT

2 RELATED MAIN REASONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Individual rights</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Pregnancy happens in the woman's body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In patriarchal societies women are expected/pressured to have children, thus when she is able to say she wants no more, SHE MEAN IT!!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Reproductive rights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Contraception is mostly on her shoulders/reach - most methods are female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If she wants no more births and gets pregnant, mostly will be due:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contraceptive failure or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Contraception being denied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reproductive and sexual rights – ICPD 1994

UNMET NEED FOR CONTRACEPTION
But still...

There is a gap in desired family size between spouses. So, we cannot ignore the couple.

- So, even considering women’s desire upfront, we need to look more broadly to reproductive health and rights.

- How can demographic surveys and analyzes deals with couples’ desires and define the “wantedness” of a birth from the point of view of the couple?
  - Ask to both of them and do the math.
DEALING WITH **COUPLES’ DESIRES** ON A NEXT BIRTH
HOW WOULD WE ANSWER THE QUESTION?

Classifying couples’ “wantedness” of the next birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wife’s desire</th>
<th>Husband’s desire</th>
<th>“Wantedness” of a next pregnancy/birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wants NO more</td>
<td>Wants more</td>
<td>UNWANTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wants more</td>
<td>Wants NO more</td>
<td>UNWANTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wants NO more</td>
<td>Wants NO more</td>
<td>UNWANTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wants more</td>
<td>Wants more</td>
<td>WANTED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
So, even considering couple’s desires, I reaffirm the initial statement!

If the wife says that she wants no more births, but the husband does want another birth,

Yes

No

her subsequent pregnancy should be considered as “unwanted”
CLOSING ARGUMENT BY OPPOSITION

A PREGNANCY WILL ONLY BE “WANTED” IF...

• Despite all complexities of reality (relationships) and measurements issues, it only will be “wanted” if both partners want/desire/plan/intend the pregnancy and the birth.
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!
OBRIGADA POR OUVIR!
¡GRACIAS POR ESCUCHAR!
GRAZIE PER L'ATTENZIONE!
感謝您的聆聽！
MERCI DE VOTRE ATTENTION!
ご聴取ありがとうございました！
 شكرا على استماعكم!
СПАСИБО ЗА ТО, ЧТО ВЫ СЛУШАЛИ!

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