A pregnancy CANNOT be considered unwanted just because wife SAID she wants no more births!

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IUSSP Debate

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LET’S NOT FORGET Reproductive rights are human rights and
The basic principles of human rights (universality, inalienability, equality and non-discrimination)
Decisions about FP use

Decisions about FP non-use

When joint decision-making is the norm in decisions to prevent unwanted pregnancy, can we justify labelling a pregnancy unwanted based on wife’s preferences only (or husband’s preferences only)?

Source: https://dhsprogram.com/data/statcompiler.cfm
Current contraceptive use

What do we want women and men in a marital relationship to aspire for?

Individual autonomy

OR

Cooperative action in which their relationship is produced, maintained, repaired, and transformed?

Source: calculated from DHS data
If women’s fertility intentions are fluid and don’t strongly predict their subsequent contraceptive behaviour or childbearing and if this measure is not designed to be used at an individual level, should it be considered as an indicator of women’s reproductive autonomy?

Source: UDAYA Study, Population Council 2017 & 2020
“Neither I nor he can do it alone. And it is not good to be satisfied alone . . .”

Source: Underwood et al., 2020
Summarizing our “No” argument

- Women’s rights are FUNDAMENTAL
- That said, we have to ask questions about:
  - Quality of these measured preferences
    - Validity: robustness/stability
    - Timing: preference/conception
  - Women’s own inclination for union goals
  - Do men have any rights here too?
    - Can look at case of SSA (bridewealth)
    - What about children’s welfare?
  - Ultimately, we land on the point that women acting contrary to their stated preferences does not mean their rights have been usurped