

The Unborn Child

A wife and husband have to make a difficult decision.

Read the story and find out:

What are they trying to decide?

Sia and her husband, Ashat, have to make a very difficult decision. Sia, 38 years old, and Ashat, 42, have always wanted a child. They have been married for 10 years and tried for a long time to have a baby.

Now Sia is three months pregnant. Their doctor just told them that the fetus's brain is not developing properly. If Sia gives birth, the baby will be badly handicapped, both mentally and physically. It will always need special care and special schools.

Sia is depressed and confused. She is against abortion and she really wants to have a baby now. Three years ago, Sia was pregnant but lost the fetus in the fourth month. This pregnancy may be her last chance. She thinks she can love and take care of the baby, no matter how handicapped it might be.

While Ashat has always been opposed to abortion, he is having second thoughts. Ashat has a good job, and the health insurance from his company will pay for Sia's pregnancy. But it will not pay for all of the

costs of the special care and schools that the child will need.

Ashat is worried about the future, after the baby is born. He wonders what kind of life it can have. Ashat also wonders how a badly handicapped baby will change their lives. Finally, he is very worried about money. They will

not have enough money for the special care and schools.

What should they do? Should Sia have an abortion? Or should she have the baby and face the future then? But she must consider the feelings of her husband. Together they somehow must make a decision.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Is abortion the right decision in this case?
Check the opinions you agree with.

I think so. The baby has no future. Both the child and the parents will only suffer.



Yes. Doctors don't know everything. Perhaps Sia will be able to have another baby.



No, Sia should have the baby. All children, handicapped or normal, have the right to be born.



No, an abortion is not the answer. This might be their last chance to have a baby.



Miracles can happen. Maybe this baby will be fine. They should have the baby.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

TURN TO PAGE 82 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.

LOOKING AT THE ISSUE

Is abortion legal in your country?

- completely legal legal in some situations completely illegal

In what situations should abortion be allowed? Check all that you agree with.

- When the mother does not want the pregnancy
 When the parents do not want the pregnancy
 When the mother's health is in danger
 When the pregnancy is because of rape
 When the parents are very young
 When the baby is going to be handicapped
 It should never be allowed, regardless of the reasons.