

Medical Anthropology (7)

<Debate of next week>

- Contraception for under-age girls
- Most countries have an "age of consent" for sex of 16 or 18, under which it is illegal for young people to engage in sexual activity (in Japan's many prefecture or municipality, so-called "*inko-jorei*" exists).
- In spite of this, many such jurisdictions will make contraceptives available, sometimes even free, to girls under the age of 16.
- This debate questions whether that juxtaposition makes sense. The objectives of policy in this area are, on the one hand, to prevent teenage pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs); and, on the other hand, to preserve young people's opportunities to live their lives free from the pressures and potential harms of sexual activity.

(Prop side) eg. Young people will experiment with sex regardless of what the state, their doctor or anyone else says.

Therefore, contraceptive measures should be freely given

(Opp side) eg. If it is illegal for an under-age girl to have sex, it should surely be illegal for anybody to aid and abet her in that activity. Giving contraceptive measures freely is a kind of such activity.