

Ethical & Social Issues Assisted Reproductive Technology

2nd National Bioethics
Conference, Bangalore, 2007

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**Sexual and
reproductive
rights are
essential
components of
human rights**





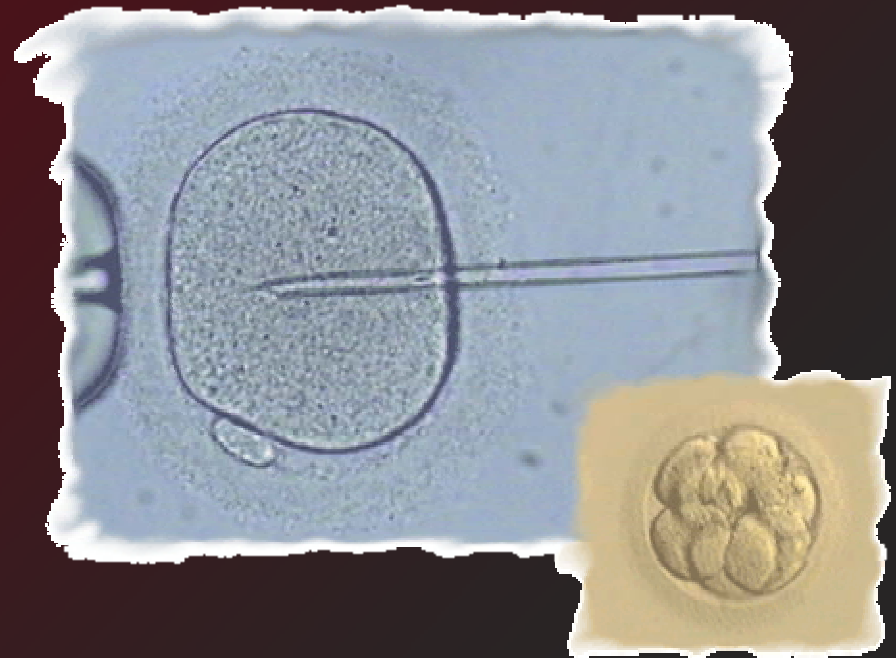
**Women and men
have the right
to decide
whether or not
to reproduce**

**Adequate,
accurate and
relevant
information is a
right of every
individual**



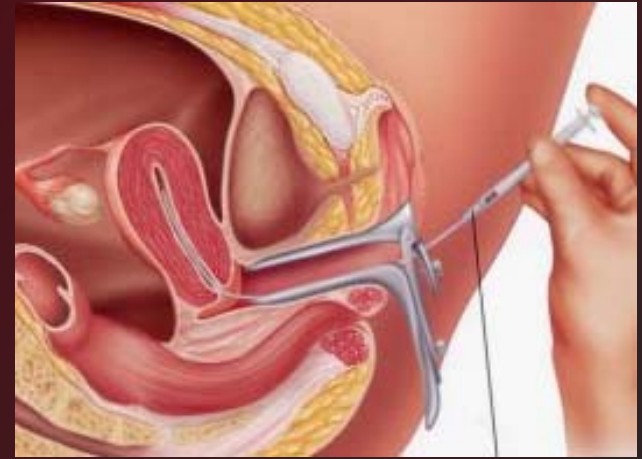
Assisted Reproductive Technology

- Any procedure undertaken to aid in conception when natural processes do not function normally



Assisted Reproductive Technology

- Ovulation induction / IUI



- IVF - embryo transfer

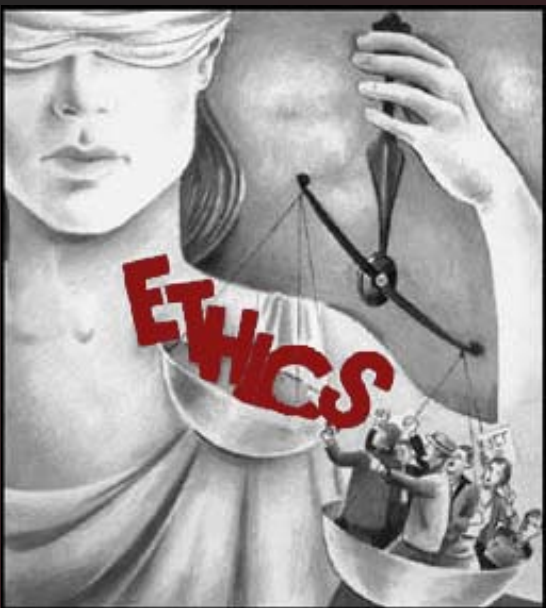
Issues Related to ART

- Five parents :
 - Sperm donor
 - Egg donor
 - Gestational carrier
 - Parents who will adopt

Babies are a Commodity

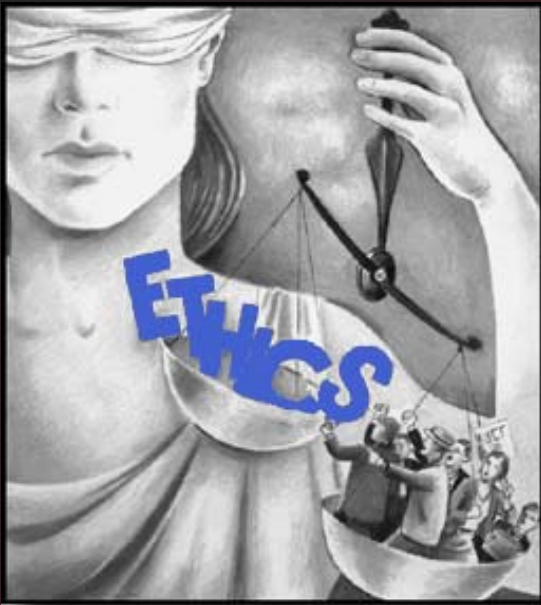


- Purchased
- Sold
- Traded
- Destroyed



Consent

- Super ovulation
- Higher order pregnancies
- Fetal reduction
- Triplets / twins



Consent

- Maternal risks
- Prolonged NICU stay
- Sequelae of prematurity

Multiple Pregnancy

- Health risks
- Health care costs
- Health care resources of community



Sex Selection

- Sonogram
- Amniocentesis
- CVS
- PGD
- Pre-fertilization - Y bearing sperm



Sex Selection

- Girl child - endangered species



Sex Selection

- Sex ratio imbalance



Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD)

- A fine line in “human selection”

- Miringoff

- Easier and far more desirable to prevent their existence than to work for their survival

- Social Costs of Genetic Welfare
Rutgers Univ. Press, 1991

- 30 yr old woman
- Rare gene for early onset Alzheimer's

*** *Discarded the “undesirable”***

The New Eugenics

- 1993 : March of Dimes
- Genome predisposed to obesity - 11%
- Children with disability - 4 / 5
- Genetic engineering to enhance child's appearance - 43%

The New Eugenics

- 2000 :
 - Minnesota Daily
 - Student Newspaper
 - Ova donor
- 5' 6" tall, Caucasian
- High SAT scores
- Mathematical / musical abilities

ART - Costs

- Donor ova / sperm : 20 k - 40 k
- IVF cycle : 60 k - 80 k
- Surrogate mother : 2.5 lakhs

Designer Babies

- Joe Fletcher family
- Created specifically
- To save a sibling's life



Designer Babies

**Procreation : the making of a product to
a specified standard**

Incompatible healthy embryos ?

Designer Babies

Ordering embryos
on the net



Surrogacy

- Commercial surrogacy
- Overseas surrogacy
- Legal stand unclear



Frozen Embryos

- Surplus embryos
- www.snowflakes.org
- Legal status
- Abortion advocates

ADVERTISEMENT

Rescue a frozen embryo from a life in a lab to one of love and security in your own home freezer...

Snowflake Embryo Adoption

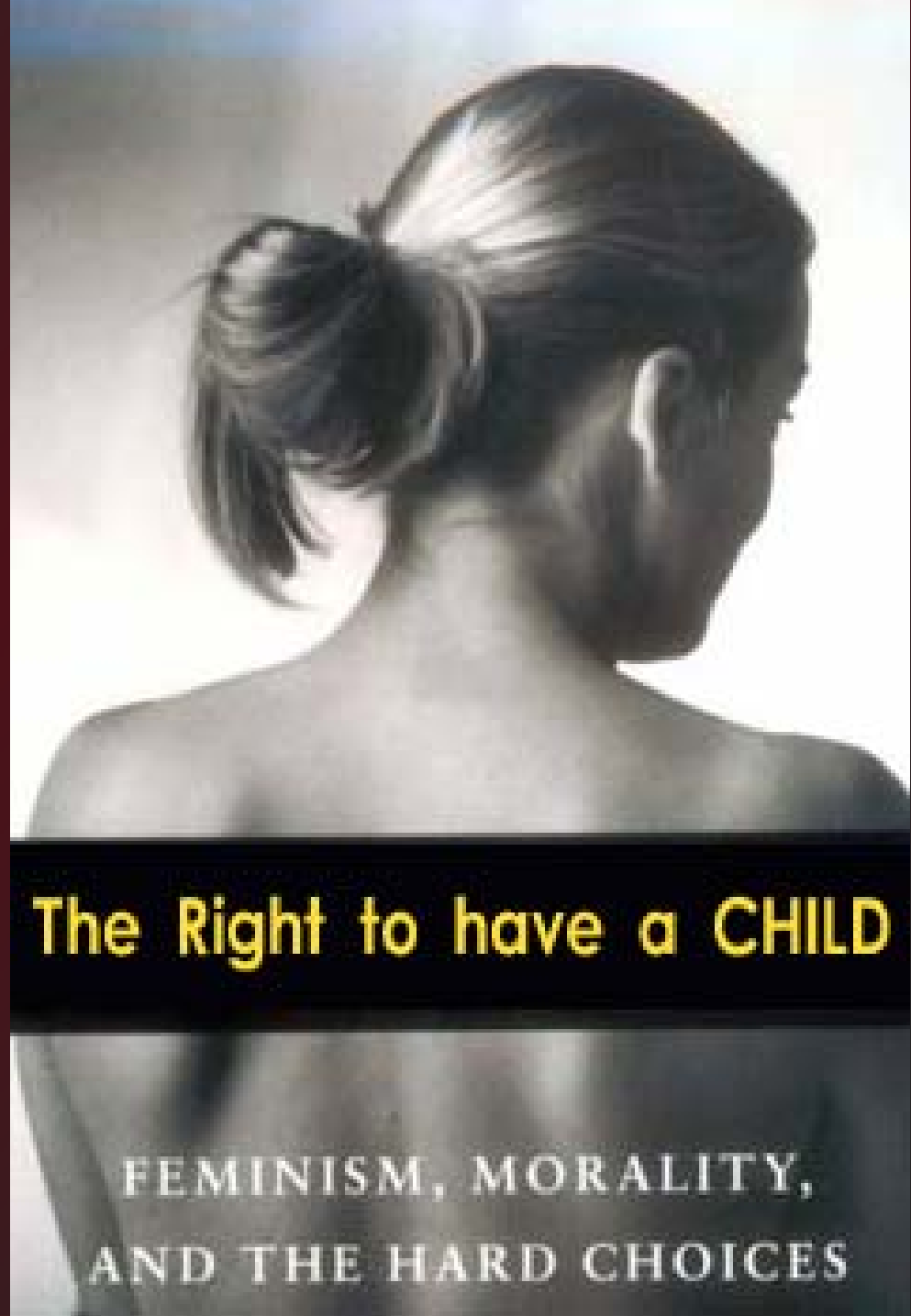


...for just pennies a day!

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The Right to have a Child

- Single woman
- Post menopausal
- Same sex couples
- HIV positive



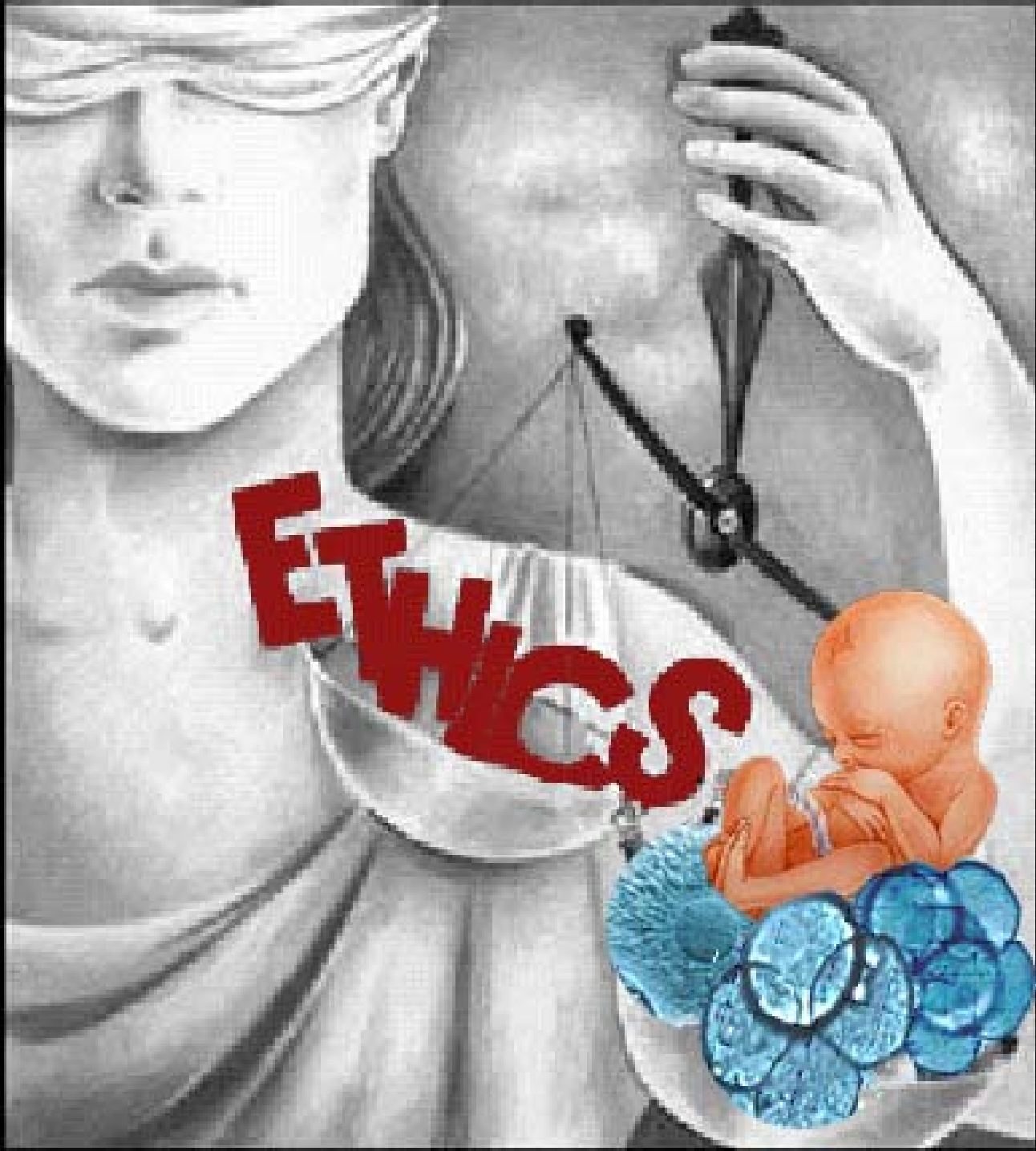
The Right to have a CHILD

FEMINISM, MORALITY,
AND THE HARD CHOICES

Children Born through ART

- Legal rights
- Risk of abnormalities
- Donor sperm / ova





ETHICS