



Research Paper

Surrogacy

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Abstract

Surrogacy is a practice that involves a woman carrying and giving birth to a child on behalf of another individual or couple who is unable to conceive or carry a pregnancy themselves. This paper raised the emotional, social, ethical, and legal consideration of surrogacy through analyzing the Indian movies "Made In India".

Keywords

Surrogacy, ethical, women, cultural, mothers, emotion, legal

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The documentary Film: "Made in India" (2010)

The Film delves into the heart of the Indian surrogacy industry, offering an intimate look into the lives of individuals involved in the process. The documentary highlights the stories of several surrogate mothers, intended parents, and facilitators, capturing the challenges, motivations, and emotional complexities associated with surrogacy. The film portrays the economic motivations for surrogate mothers, revealing the financial opportunities and stability that surrogacy can provide. For instance, Aasia, one of the surrogate mothers featured in the documentary, expresses her desire to earn money to support her family and educate her children. This example reflects the economic realities that drive many women to participate in surrogacy.

"Made in India" also showcases the perspective of the intended parents, revealing their struggles with infertility and the emotional rollercoaster of their surrogacy journey. Couples like Lisa and Brian, who have been attempting to conceive for years, turn to surrogacy as their last hope to have a child. Their experience reflects the emotional resilience and determination that fuel the demand for surrogacy.

Moreover, the film highlights the cultural and social factors surrounding surrogacy in India. It explores the perspective of Dr. Nayna Patel, a prominent fertility specialist, who established the Akanksha Infertility Clinic and facilitated numerous surrogacy arrangements. Dr. Patel's vision and dedication to providing a solution for couples struggling with infertility shed light on the cultural context and societal acceptance of surrogacy in India.

The film provides a compelling case for exploring the surrogacy topic due to its comprehensive examination of the Indian surrogacy industry and the diverse perspectives it presents. By focusing on specific examples from the film, we gain insight into the economic, emotional, and cultural dimensions of surrogacy. The film captures the complexities and ethical dilemmas associated with surrogacy, challenging viewers to critically reflect on the broader implications of this practice. It raises thought-provoking questions about the commodification of women's bodies, exploitation, and power dynamics within the surrogacy industry. These examples prompt a deeper exploration of the ethical considerations and societal impact of surrogacy.

"Made in India" offers a nuanced portrayal of the surrogate mothers, intended parents, and facilitators involved, allowing viewers to empathize with their experiences. By humanizing the individuals at the heart of the surrogacy process, the film encourages a more comprehensive understanding of the personal motivations, emotions, and challenges that shape their involvement.

Overview of Major Research Findings on Surrogacy

The practice of surrogacy has garnered considerable attention and debate in recent years, as advancements in reproductive technologies and changing societal norms have made it more accessible and visible. Proponents argue that surrogacy provides a pathway to parenthood for individuals or couples struggling with infertility or medical conditions that prevent them from carrying a pregnancy. It is seen as a means of realizing the dream of having a biological child and expanding the definition of family. However, critics raise concerns about the potential for exploitation, the commodification of women's bodies, and the long-term emotional and psychological impact on all parties involved. Over the years, surrogacy has garnered significant attention from

researchers who have examined various aspects of this reproductive arrangement. The following is an overview of some major research findings on the topic of surrogacy:

1. **Psychological Well-being:** Research has explored the psychological well-being of surrogate mothers before, during, and after the surrogacy process. Findings suggest that most surrogates experience positive psychological outcomes, including feelings of satisfaction and fulfillment from helping others. However, some studies have also indicated the potential for emotional challenges, such as grief and postpartum depression, which may vary depending on individual circumstances and support systems.
2. **Intended Parents' Perspectives:** Studies have examined the experiences and perspectives of intended parents who engage in surrogacy. Research indicates that intended parents often have complex motivations, including infertility, same-sex partnerships, or medical conditions. Overall, findings suggest that surrogacy can fulfill their desire for parenthood and enhance their well-being. However, challenges related to the financial and legal aspects of surrogacy may also arise.
3. **Legal and Ethical Considerations:** Surrogacy raises numerous legal and ethical questions. Researchers have explored different legal frameworks and regulatory approaches to surrogacy across countries. Findings highlight variations in laws and regulations, ranging from complete bans to well-regulated systems. Ethical considerations, such as autonomy, exploitation, and the best interests of the child, have also been extensively discussed in the literature.
4. **Child Outcomes:** Studies have examined the well-being and development of children born through surrogacy. Research consistently indicates that children born via surrogacy fare well in terms of their cognitive, emotional, and social development. Factors such as supportive family environments, disclosure of surrogacy origins, and open communication play crucial roles in promoting positive child outcomes.
5. **Intended Surrogacy and Commercial Surrogacy:** A distinction is often made between intended surrogacy (also known as altruistic surrogacy) and commercial surrogacy. Research has explored the differences and implications of these two models. Altruistic surrogacy is generally associated with familial or close relationships, while commercial surrogacy involves financial compensation. Studies have examined the impact of financial arrangements on surrogate motivations, relationships, and potential exploitation, highlighting the need for ethical guidelines.
6. **Global Perspectives:** Surrogacy practices vary widely across different countries and cultures. Comparative research has explored cultural attitudes, legal frameworks, and societal norms related to surrogacy in various regions. Findings emphasize the importance of understanding local contexts and cultural values when considering surrogacy practices globally.

It is worth noting that surrogacy is a dynamic and evolving field, and research continues to address emerging issues and concerns. Further studies are needed to explore long-term outcomes for surrogates, children, and intended parents, as well as to inform policy and legal frameworks that ensure the well-being and protection of all parties involved in surrogacy arrangements.

Conclusion:

Surrogacy as a multifaceted issue with both positive and negative aspects. On one hand, surrogacy has the potential to bring immeasurable joy to individuals or couples who long for a biological connection with a child. It can provide a lifeline for those facing fertility challenges and offer a pathway to parenthood that might not be possible otherwise. This aspect of surrogacy highlights the importance of reproductive autonomy and the right of individuals to make choices about their own bodies and families.

However, there are ethical concerns and potential risks associated with surrogacy. Exploitation of vulnerable individuals, including surrogate mothers, is a critical issue that requires careful attention. The commodification of women's bodies and the potential for coercion or unequal power dynamics in surrogacy arrangements raise valid concerns. It is essential to ensure that the rights and well-being of all parties involved, including the surrogate mothers, are protected and prioritized. It is necessary to set up comprehensive legal frameworks that prioritize informed consent, fair compensation, and psychological support for surrogate mothers. A focus on education and awareness is also crucial in fostering a more nuanced understanding of surrogacy within society. We can strive to navigate the complexities of surrogacy and uphold the principles of reproductive autonomy while safeguarding the well-being of all individuals impacted by these arrangements.