

The Ethical Issues of Women's Reproductive Rights and Healthcare

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Every woman has reproductive rights. She has the right to acquire and apply information about her reproductive organs. She also has the right to access affordable reproductive health care. All women should be able to get treatment and preventive measures with regards to sexual diseases. Unfortunately, not all women are aware of their reproductive rights. Some societies ignore the reproductive rights of women due to ethical issues associated with them.

Schenker and Eisenberg (1997) explain that reproductive rights such as the right to make decisions regarding abortion, contraceptive and the use of reproductive technologies introduce ethical dilemmas. Although women have rights, there are other moral issues that call for attention. The right to terminate a pregnancy presents the ethical concern of killing the embryo. Schenker and Eisenberg (1997) elaborate on this issue stating that abortion raises an ethical dilemma with regards to choosing whether to respect the right of the fetus or that of the mother. It also introduces the ethical issue of committing murder. Some people believe that life begins at conception and thus views the embryo as an individual. Hence, they believe that abortion is murder as it takes the life of a developing individual.

Vitro-fertilization introduces ethical concerns of whether or not it is right for human beings to interfere with reproduction (Schenker & Eisenberg, 1997). Genetic manipulation and the selection of particular traits and sex are major concepts connected to Vitro fertilization. Human's attempt to produce a perfect offspring is unethical since it interferes with the rights of the unborn child.

According to Rich (2009), there are various ethical issues associated with the reproductive health care of women around the world. He explains that women from developing

and undeveloped countries undergo female genital mutilation. Although the practice is illegal and unethical, it is still carried out in some societies. They view it as a rite of passage and force women and teenage girls to take part. Female Genital Mutilation bears no medical justification but denies the female population the right to make reproductive decisions (Rich, 2009).

Unfortunately, some ethical concerns result from research conducted on pregnant women who are HIV-positive (Rich, 2009). Some researchers visit underdeveloped countries and prey on pregnant women seeking medical attention. They break the rules and conduct research on maternal transmission of HIV by using the uninformed women as their subjects. The research puts the women and unborn children at risk and denies them of their right to affordable medical service.

Each day the number of HIV-positive women increases (Rich, 2009). One of the major reasons being that some do not have the option of engaging in safe sex. Women living in underdeveloped and developing nations are victims of cultural practices that undermine their rights to make decisions. They engage in unprotected sexual intercourse and cannot access health services. These women also cannot regulate their fertility by using contraceptive as it is forbidden. Although it is unethical, the society denies women their reproductive rights.

In conclusion, various ethical issues are connected to the reproductive rights of women. The society should produce a meaningful solution to these dilemmas and respect the reproductive rights of women.

References

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