

Troubling 'Gifts': Revisiting the Indian ART and Surrogacy Bills

Friday, 16 Oct 2020

4-6pm IST (11.30am-1.30pm BST)

Join via Microsoft Teams: <https://bit.ly/3nHoDBP>

Since the 1970s, assisted reproductive technologies (ART) have offered a unique opportunity for millions of infertile individuals and couples around the world to complete their families. However, ART and related processes like surrogacy give rise to a range of legal and ethical issues that require thoughtful consideration particularly by policy makers. Although proposed legislation has been on the anvil for more than 15 years now, the Indian regulatory framework on ARTs and surrogacy consists of a patchwork of laws and regulations which fails to protect the most vulnerable actors in the ART sector. Medical guidelines issued by the Indian Council for Medical Research in 2005 were fairly liberal but subsequent laws like the ART Bills, 2008, 2010, 2013 and 2014 have become progressively limited and exclusionary. These legislative processes now appear to be culminating with the imminent passage of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, which is currently pending before the Rajya Sabha after having been reviewed by two parliamentary committees. Similarly, the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, 2020 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in September 2020 and was referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee on October 3 which is due to submit its report in three months' time. Both Bills remain highly exclusionary and suffer from significant drawbacks. To discuss these Bills, particularly, the ART Bill, we have convened a virtual discussion with fertility clinic doctors, medical ethicists, academics, lawyers, and commissioning parents.

SPEAKERS

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