

Consequences of Surrogacy on Surrogates in India

Jyoti Chaudhary

Abstract

The advent of new reproductive technologies has given a ray of hope to infertile couples around the globe to have children that are genetically related to them. The most popular of these technologies is in-vitro fertilization that has paved way for surrogacy. The paper argues that while the arrangements are proven to be the miracle cure for many, they are not without their pit-falls. It is interesting to note how a surrogate, who is also the key player of these arrangements, happens to be most affected by these procedures. The paper tries to throw light on the impact that surrogacy has on the physical, mental and social health of the surrogates.

Keywords: Surrogacy, Consequences of Surrogacy, Physical Health, Mental Health, Social Health

Understanding Surrogacy

Surrogacy, traces its origin from the Latin term ‘surrogatus’ that signifies an act of replacement or substitution. Within the domain of reproduction, it stands for an agreement whereby, a woman chooses to carry someone else’s child in return of some payment with the aim of handing it over to the intended parents. Surrogacy thereby becomes a means of reproduction through which one’s desire of having a genetically related child is met. (Venugopal 2013). Surrogacy, based on its nature, can be divided into commercial and non-commercial. In the commercial form of surrogacy, a woman agrees to carry the child in return of some payment, other than the medical expense incurred during pregnancy and childbirth. This payment is understood as a form of remuneration for the time and effort put by the surrogate. Non-commercial surrogacy, also referred to as Altruistic surrogacy, is one in which the surrogate is not paid any fee or amount for her efforts of carrying the child. The nature of this agreement is purely based on altruism. Surrogacy, based on its differing forms, can be divided into traditional and gestational form of surrogacy. In the gestational form of surrogacy, the surrogate provides just her womb for carrying the child to term for someone else and is not genetically related to the child. On the other hand, in the