

"The Ethics Behind Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis" by Jassmin Flores

Ethical issues regarding PDG

Genetics do not mean destiny
there are so many other aspects to consider when raising a child, their DNA is not going to determine 100% of their life

discrimination against "defective" embryos
abortion?

Seen as an alternative to abortion but in PDG embryos are "allowed to die" instead of being aborted (which some see as fetus "killing")
the embryo that is not chosen to be placed back into the woman does not have a chance at life
poses same ethical dilemma as abortion does even though it claims to be better

sense of detachment from embryo allowing for easier removal of embryos that do not pass genetic qualifications

women's reproductive rights
women become viewed as "objects of reproduction"

China's One Child Policy
leading to a son preference because the men are supposed to marry and have his parents move in with him and take care of them as they get older

many couples who knew they were going to have a daughter would abort the fetus and try again

disproportionate number of Chinese males, greatly outweighing the females

Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD)

makes it possible for parents to hand pick their future child's sex and genetic traits before birth

developed in 1980

occurs after the embryo is created through in vitro fertilization (IVF)

eggs are extracted from the mother, inseminated by the father's sperm (or a generic male sperm), once the embryo has developed for three days, they are removed to be genetically analyzed and then replanted into a woman's uterus

allows for parents to prevent serious health issues in their child

ie: they would select the genes (or gender) that was least prone to developing diseases

Call to Action

need for stricter regulations regarding PGD

stated in Intro and Concluding statement

Created as an alternative to abortion for parents to have a child that they did not want to be affected by a serious genetic illness or disability

however some of the diseases are treatable and the child would be considered "healthy"