Journal of Mediation & Social Welfare
ISSN: 2559-7590
Covered in: CrossRef; RePEc; CEEOL; KVK; WorldCat; Google Scholar

2020, Volume 2, Issue 1, pages: 60-68 | https://doi.org/10.18662/jmsw/2.1/12

Towards a Welfare of Reproduction - Technology and Art's

Loredana TEREC-VLAD[1]

[1] PhD in Philosophy, Ștefan cel Mare University of Suceava, Romania, loredana.vlad@fdsa.usv.ro

Abstract: We are in the 21st century, a century (Lipovetsky, 1996) a century that marks new directions in terms of research, information transfer, economic exchanges, and so on. The new fields that have emerged, for example the neuroscience, the medical fields, and so forth are at the intersection of several disciplines, which leads us to believe that they are not only interdisciplinary fields, but also trans-disciplinary fields. Today we are faced with new discoveries that lead us to ask, as we did in the past, what is the purpose of life and man on earth: the immortality or the enlightenment?

Keywords: *medically assisted human reproduction, assisted reproductive technologies, technology of reproduction*.

How to cite: Terec-Vlad, L. (2020). Towards a Welfare of Reproduction - Technology and Art's. *Journal of Mediation & Social Welfare, 2*(1), 60-68. https://doi.org/10.18662/jmsw/2.1/12

1. Introduction

Every day we are subjected to new situations, and the way we relate to them is determined by our adaptability; the new technologies have changed our "way of being in the world" through the new smart devices, the new social networks and so forth (Vlad, 2019). However, there are also other artifacts that constantly shape us; a new field that is beginning to gain more and more importance in the medical field is the medically assisted human reproduction (Huidu, 2018a). Whether we want children with more chances in life or we want them to have a certain behavior or a certain personality type, or we want them to have certain physical characteristics, we have at our disposal the genetic engineering and other related technologies.

The medically assisted human reproduction is a new concept in the literature and it occurs with the development of new technologies, the decryption of the human genome and so on. The new technologies have developed since the second half of the twentieth century, and with it have emerged more and more areas and subfields of research on how the brain works, on how the baby in the mother's womb develops, and so forth.

Even nowadays, more and more researchers are dedicating themselves to such studies and the most important ones refer to the decryption of the mysteries of consciousness in order to ensure the unlimited prolongation of life expectancy (Terec-Vlad, 2015; Stambler, 2011). The decryption of the human genome was a very important moment in the history of humanity, which is why, since that time scientists have wanted to understand more and more about how we function as humans, what consciousness is, and so on.

The concept of medically assisted human reproduction is a field that provides us with the possibility of prolonging the life expectancy of the individual, a field in which the emphasis is increasingly on cloning, genetic editing so that many legal and ethical issues arise. "The legal regulation of the medically assisted human reproduction techniques helps to overcome infertility problems and is based upon the fundamental rights of individuals. The freedom to procreate, as a premise of the right to form a family, presupposes the free development of the personality and this is introduced in the sphere of freedoms and not in the sphere of rights, in the strict sense. We must consider the significance of the human procreation in all its aspects and connections. The law must address the ethical concerns that arise from these approaches. However, there must be no confusion between the ethical and legal dimensions" (Valverde, 2007). Although these reproductive techniques are new, the legal and ethical framework must be developed as

other areas are developed, taking into account aspects such as: the fundamental human values, the protection of the human dignity, the health of human subjects, the freedom, the free will, but this must also take into account the suffering of the infertile people.

2. The **medically assisted human reproduction – introductory landmarks**

The concept of medically assisted human reproduction is quite new and involves the human reproduction with the help of new technologies. Whether it is the in vitro fertilization or other procedures such as the genetic editing, these actions are always placed under the sign of ethics and the legislative framework (Huidu, 2018b). Nowadays, the specialized bibliography is full of ethical themes and approaches in this fields and the challenges come on both channels, both the legal and the ethical, and from this viewpoint the pros and cons debates arouse more and more controversies, which are obvious, of course, in the literature.

The society in which we live is a society of challenges and changes, and the medically assisted human reproduction is a challenge for the medicine, the man, the family and also for the society as a whole. Under these conditions, "the humanity is trying to remove these negative effects of civilization through the infusion of technology. The more the research and technology advances, the greater the number of children they will produce. The more society receives such individuals, the more visible the moral, ethical, legal and even the religious conflict will become.

What is certain is that these people are appearing and will continue to appear in increasing numbers. It is the duty of the society to receive and integrate them in such a way that the negative effects of this phenomenon are minimal" (Guțan, 2009).

The field of the medically assisted human reproduction is full of contradictions, especially from a moral, theological, bioethical or medical perspective, given that there are a number of perspectives for and against these procedures. However, science and technology are advancing day by day, and couples who want to have children naturally and cannot for various reasons, resort to such procedures, often controversial given the fact that the human cells are used for such of procedures.

The concept of medically assisted human reproduction does not have a unanimously accepted definition in the scientific community, but we can say that "the procreation is allowed outside the natural process" (Guțan, 2009), i.e. in the absence of the sexual intercourse.

From this standpoint, we emphasize the following: "The Assisted Reproduction Technology (ART) includes fertility treatments in which both eggs and sperm are treated in the laboratory (i.e. in vitro fertilization and related procedures). The patients who undergo ART procedures are more likely to give birth to more children at multiple births than women who conceive naturally. The multiple births are associated with an increased risk for mothers and infants (e.g., pregnancy complications, premature birth, low birth weight, and long-term disability among infants)" (Wright, et al. 2008).

When we talk about procreation – at least from a medical perspective – we think of the fact that a new being is born. This type of procreation also involves a third actor, i.e. the doctor, who has an important role in the application of medical techniques. The doctor plays the most important role in this equation (Mitchell, 2017) and this is due to the fact that the success of such actions depends on him and the technology used, always under the sign of (bio)ethics and law (Nuffield Council on Bioethics, 2018).

3. The evolution of the technique and the technology

The technique and technology have evolved over time, and today we can say that they are an extension of the human body, as we said before. Every day we buy household appliances to make our lives easier. This aspect related to the new technologies was also analyzed by Kiran provided that there must be a degree of trust between us and technology, for the following reason:

"Trust is a key dimension in the relationship between human beings and technology. In many discourses about technology, the relationship between the human beings and technologies is conceptualized as an external relationship: a relationship amongst predetermined entities that may have a mutual impact, but which do not constitute each other. From this perspective, the relationships of trust can vary between trust, as it is present, for example, in the technological extensionism and suspicion, as well as in various precautionary approaches in the field of ethics that focus on technological risks" (Kiran & Verbeek, 2010).

From an ethical perspective, everything that new technologies require must ensure the well-being of the human being and in no case harm him or her. For example, the potential applications of technology in war are very well known (Terec-Vlad, 2013). But is this application positive or negative? It could be argued that the military application of science is undoubtedly negative, as it has led to the creation of the atomic bomb and

other weapons of mass destruction. The technology can make it possible to completely destroy humanity.

Perhaps the most fundamental and direct impact that technology has on the daily lives of most people is the economic impact. The problem of jobs and unemployment is what attracts everyone's attention. While the competition between machinery and the human labor has existed for centuries, the intellectual work has recently aroused increasing interest. As much as the heavy machinery has eliminated the need for the physical effort of the people, the modern technology, in the form of microchips and computers, brings with it the potential to eliminate the mental illness (Naslund et al., 2017)

On the other hand, it is not only the financial aspect that matters, but also the quality of human life, given that we often have the problem of satisfaction in the family life (Apostu, 2016) and in the professional life. Regarding the economic aspect we mentioned earlier, we can take a look at the past. In the early twentieth century in the United States, the jobs in factories and agriculture were rapidly disappearing.

But with the loss of these jobs, the potential for millions of new jobs and economic development in new industries has emerged. Today, the new technologies are rapidly reducing the number of production jobs, simply because the physical human labor is being replaced by digitized or technological work. The term „globalization" is related to the new technologies, given that this process or matrix of becoming reduces the time and virtualizes the distance (Sandu, 2016). However, this process has made the sales markets to be similar all over the world and one of the values of postmodernity is the gain:

"The technical values can operate even as liberating values in relation to the dominant (economic and political) values by promoting, through the computer technology, spiritual and even virtual needs, by transforming conflict, negotiation and political compromise into efficient organization" (Pană, 2006).

At the same time, "The technology is becoming a cultural system that takes over humanity, and the technology is becoming autonomous. As it becomes autonomous, the technology will capture less developed societies, civilizations which under the imprint of the technological culture and the process of globalization will accept a different culture, a different social model, a different lifestyle due to the development of the technical environment and of the fascination proposed by technology" (Ellul, 1980).

As one can see, we are in the process of change, and what we have highlighted above are just a few examples of how technology is transforming our lives.

4. New discoveries in biology and medicine

The fact that the technique and technology have evolved has led to new problems that both law and ethics are facing today. The two areas need to adapt at a very fast pace, given the fact that, day by day, we are facing new challenges. The ideas about ideal cities are not new to the literature, and from this viewpoint we can talk about works such as Francis Bacon's "New Atlantis" (Bacon, 2007) or Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" (Huxley, 2011)

Concerning the second work, written in the 1940s, it contains a series of futuristic scenarios regarding what the ideal world created with the help of new technologies would look like. From this standpoint, Huxley invites us to take part in a prospective scenario, emphasizing: "The Alpha children are dressed in gray. They work harder than us because they are extraordinarily smart. In fact, I'm very glad I'm Beta, because I don't have to work so hard. And we do much better than the Gama children or the Delta children. The Gama children are stupid. They are all dressed in green, and the Delta children are dressed in khaki. Ah, no, I don't like playing with the Delta kids. And the Epsilons are even worse. They are so stupid that they can't even read or write. The director presses the button again." (Huxley, 2011). From this fragment we can grasp the futuristic vision of the author. Often the novel is being considered to be a utopia or a dystopia. Regarding other visions of the future, we can mention George Orwell's novel "1984" (Orwel, 1991) where "to the old Malthusian obsessions the vision of mass ideology is added".

The mass ideology is an idea that belongs to totalitarian systems. It is well known that the totalitarian doctrines of the right and the left support the uniformity of the society (Terec-Vlad, 2013). For example, socialists believe that work ennobles man and the disappearance of the social strata would cause each person to have sufficient resources to live decently. In communism, the state is centralized, the media is censored and the people are educated according to the specific doctrine of the system.

Regarding the way in which the technique and technology influence our lives, we believe that with the decryption of the human genome, the Pandora's Box was opened. The new discoveries in the field of genetic engineering and biology have determined that the fields of ethics, bioethics

and also the legal field to adapt to the new challenges coming from the fields mentioned above.

Among the new discoveries in medicine, especially in recent years (Abkin, 2018), we can talk about:

The discovery of a contraceptive pill for men;

The face transplant;

The cancer vaccine;

The use of ketaine to treat depression;

Contact lenses which can monitor the blood sugar in the people diagnosed with diabetes;

Inhibitors for the treatment of ovarian and breast cancer;

The deep brain stimulation in paralyzed patients;

A baby was born following a uterine transplant from a deceased donor;

If at one point in time the artificial intelligence was thought of as a futuristic threat to humanity, it is now a part of the everyday life. In healthcare, the AI is changing the way it is viewed through its applications in terms of decision support, image analysis and patient triage.

Today, the artificial intelligence helps doctors make smarter decisions, by improving the ease and accuracy of viewing patient scans. As it can be seen, we have only discussed a number of issues related to the medical discoveries, but we must also accept that any deviation from the moral rules could have serious consequences.

5. Conclusions

In this chapter we have taken a look at the concept of technology and brought to the fore a number of philosophical ideas to better understand these concepts. It is important for each of us to be aware that the development of technique and technology also requires an ethical approach due to the fact that man is inclined by his nature to do evil. Or this aspect can later lead to a multitude of disasters that, in extreme cases, would mean our extinction as a species.

Acknowledgement

A first version of the text of this article was part of the author's MA dissertation, presented at the University "Stefan cel Mare" in Suceava, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, European Law Program.

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