

## Editorial

# Eugenics and Artificial Selection

Jugal Kishore

Director Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, India.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24321/2454.325X.202411>

## I N F O

**E-mail Id:**

[jk@drjugalkishore.com](mailto:jk@drjugalkishore.com)

**Orcid Id:**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6246-5880>

**How to cite this article:**

Kishore J. Eugenics and Artificial Selection. Int J Preven Curat Comm Med. 2024;10(&4):1-2.

Humanity has, since time immemorial, strived to attain perfection. Eugenics, or attempting to control what sort of progeny one has, is one effort towards this end. Eugenics has evolved with the times from being imposed through coercion by society or the state to being market-driven in the present day. Most of the parents prefer their babies to be designed according to accepted societal norms, such as the color of the skin, hair, eyes, and a particular gender. This design craving may create a society where a particular color, intelligence, length, and beauty, etc., will dominate, and soon heterogeneity will be lost. Moral and ethical principles suggest that the focus should be on the detection and prevention of abnormalities. This kind of manipulation is a sort of positive eugenics. In the future, a technology will help us detect every gene responsible for designing all body structures and organs, which can be manipulated. However, such technology ought to be used for detecting genetic disorders and the prevention of diseases rather than for having designer babies. Eugenics should be used for preventing the births of those whose lives would be a burden on themselves and their families.

In modern times, the immigration policy of many developed countries prohibits all kinds of people but allows highly educated people or technocrats, etc. This could be considered negative eugenics to some extent.

Marriages in many countries can be labeled as a type of eugenics because the majority of people would not marry into those families where a certain person is known to be suffering from a mental disorder, genetic anomaly, or is physically handicapped, or has a criminal record. They reject the entire family because of one particular person, as they feel that the genes of the family would possess such tendencies and fear that the progeny too might develop these tendencies.

Eugenics aims to improve the genetic endowment of the progeny, and it can be classified into two types: positive eugenics and negative eugenics. Surrogacy is selective, and you are not allowing certain characteristics to develop, whereas you want some other features to increase. In surrogacy, you are selecting the woman and the womb; the father and mother are selected with particular characteristics.

You may argue that women who volunteer to be surrogate mothers do so due to poverty; however, even within the framework, selection

is made, and not all qualify as being fit to be surrogate mothers, hence, selection is involved. Surrogacy is negative eugenics as it uses the poverty of a person to use her womb if the mother is westerner father is also a westerner and if they are doing it in their own country, it may be ok, but coming and doing it in some other country and renting the womb of some poverty-stricken woman is negative eugenics.

Positive eugenics involves encouraging a particular section population to increase its progeny, negative eugenics involves stopping a certain section of society from increasing its progeny. Positive eugenics would always involve taking into account the freedom and human rights of the individuals rather than using people's poverty, caste, race, etc.

Our selection system for marriage or job, or immigration is based on the intelligence quotient (IQ). That could be the reason for all aggressive and maladjusted behaviors in society. EQ or Emotional Quotient is more important for life. Therefore, recently, the bigger organizations have changed their selection policy for higher posts. Instead of high IQ people, they choose people with moderate IQ but high Emotional Quotient. Not always do children of affluent society have high IQs, but kids of the poor may also have higher IQs and EQs.

Genes have an inbuilt mechanism for mutation, and many times this can go wrong and can even be beneficial. Therefore, subsequent progenies are resistant to certain diseases. This is part of the evolutionary process. Our children are smarter, very good with technology, career-oriented, and have better survival instincts. We can say that we learn to become more intelligent. New technology development has given birth to artificial Intelligence, which will further challenge human evolution.

We are cutting off more and more from nature, avoiding agricultural activities and forestry, hence, we are losing certain perceptions, and those perceptions that we do not stimulate, we are bound to lose. Physical activity is getting less, and the food we are consuming is cooked and easy to digest, so our bodies and digestion are all changing. This has resulted us many lifestyle diseases.

Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques empower people to find out any congenital defects in the unborn. Unfortunately, people misuse such tests to detect the sex of babies. This is a negative eugenic process. Pre-conception counseling may be beneficial where genetic screening could be an effective tool for positive eugenics, and informed parents may decide to conceive to avoid medical issues. Couples ought to be educated, motivated, and empowered to make decisions.

We are at the crossroads of human evolution and

technological development, where a new level of thinking and research projects is required. Our concepts of prevention, disease treatment, and rehabilitation need reform and should be adapted to address newer challenges of medical science.