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Significance of Designer Babies: Why the World Needs a Change

Technological advancements are among the most appreciated aspects of human development are credited for their transformative influences. Designer babies have been a cause of contentious debates with critics' highlighting possibilities of its abuse, which evokes many people's fears. Particularly, critics point to critical ethical concerns and patient safety as shortcomings of designer babies' technology. Proponents of designer babies, such as fertility specialists, however, dismiss critics' perceived possibilities of misuse.

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Instead, they support in vitro fertilization and embryo manipulation as ethical and safe when performed by fertility specialists. This paper will argue in support of designer babies and

genetic modification. Precisely, the paper justifies that designer babies are the future of the world, mainly because they promise to increase the human potential, deal with genetic disorders, and enhance the probability of human reproduction beyond natural means.

Proponents of human genome modification posit that it improves human potential. According to Peter McDonnell's article on "Gene-Edited Babies: The next 'Designer' Baby Could Be a Future Ophthalmologist," there is widespread awareness of the benefits of genetic engineering and the fact that technology improves environmental adaptability qualities of plants and animals (5). McDonnell indicates that, alongside reproductive technologies applied in vitro fertilization, genetic engineering has enabled the selection of the desired physical, mental, and genetic characteristics in humans that could be passed through family generations. As noted by Kovas et al., "parents want the best for their children, and some know they lack the desired qualities for inheritance" (67). These observations justify views presented by the proponents of genetic engineering. It indicates that designer babies could be one of the ways of solving parents' anxiety of passing down undesired traits to children such as hereditary diseases. The process of developing designer babies involves carefully selecting desired traits through gene modification to produce exact attributes that parents desire to achieve in their offspring. The study by Jennifer Gumer indicated that designer babies have high probabilities of addressing most of the struggles of normal humans to advance adaptation to the environment (140). Based on the viewpoints expressed by McDonnell and Kovas et al., designer babies have advanced adaptations to the environments and can perform better relative to their humans. Their exceptional adaptability to the environment and immunity against diseases make designer babies make them a preference to natural babies.

Consistent with the view that genetic engineering enhances human immunity levels, modifications of human genes such as those achieved in designer babies help in dealing with natural

genetic and hereditary disorders, such as Hunter Syndrome, Tay-Sach Disease, and others. The most undesired genetic inheritances are those that slow down or compromise the ability of people to realize optimal performance (Kovas et al. 71). Literature from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that close to 10, 000 diseases afflicting humans are monogenic—they result from single gene defects in the body (WHO 1). Genetic defects, mostly those that result in disease and bad health, could be dealt with through genetic engineering and alteration of the human genome (Redale et al. 208). Besides, gene editing may be applied in curing some of the genetic diseases such as thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder that affects about 8000 pregnancies annually around the world, and cystic fibrosis, which afflicts 1 in every 2000 and 1 in every 3500 children in Europe and the US each year, which are two of the many currently incurable diseases (Kovas et al. 70). Designer babies have improved genes and increased the chances that they will perform better than normal humans [connect with designer babies to the diseases].

Further, according to Measure, using genetic engineering to create a new species of people who have the potential for dealing with complex diseases (1). The necessity to eliminate most ailments that are inherited informs the argument that having genetically modified individuals lowers that chance that they will suffer from the genetic and hereditary conditions. Proponents of advanced fertility technology, therefore, posit that designer babies have the future for a perfect life, considering that their genetic makeups and physical characteristics are carefully selected and artificially engineered.

According to proponents, designer babies increase the chances of humans to deal with infertility that affects many individuals. Kovas et al. define infertility as “the failure to attain pregnancy in at least 12 months of regular unprotected sex” (73). Infertility has many causes. Genetics is among the leading causes of infertility. The incidence of infertility around the world re-

veals a shocking statistic. Based on the latest data from research conducted in 2017, 10.5% and 2% of women experience secondary and primary infertility, respectively (Gumer 141). Not only women suffer from or are likely to be diagnosed with infertility but also men. Infertility among men, however, is comparatively lower than that of women (less than 2%). Everyone may be sensitive to the likelihood that the global population will surpass the capacity for natural resources to support sustainable living.

Similarly, scientific studies prove that some species could be extinct shortly. Fertilization of the human ovum occurs outside the human body in a laboratory before being transferred to a woman. The first case of a test tube baby was Louise Brown, who was born approximately 40 years ago (Gumer 140). Designer babies can help to overcome the natural challenges that humans experience because they are more fertile than natural humans counterparts. It justified supporting further research into technologies used to make designer babies.

Researchers may argue for the benefits and possible advantages of designer babies, but they still have to convince critics of designer babies. Presently, the primary obstacle for designer babies and the ideas of genetic engineering is the fact that many people compare it with the natural ways of child development and fertility. Redale et al. note that “designer babies are an invention for the current and future generations, but they generally would not be accepted into the society because of the moral code synonymous with the global community” (212). Two of the most widely cited concerns against designer babies are the ideas that the technologies could create and unexpected advantage for some people over others and that some of the applicable technologies could lead to many other problems, especially if they are unchecked. In justifying the thesis of this essay, it is worth considering that genetically modifying individuals could eliminate the desirability of special traits in persons, including athleticism and intellectualism (Measure 1). Con-

sidered from the concern of undue advantage, genetic modification could give some people an undeserved advantage over others, which is a major social equality issue that researchers and proponents of designer babies should deal with.

Genetic modifications may be critically disadvantageous to natural humans because of several unpredicted consequences. For instance, modifications of genomes to attain optimal characteristics, such as intelligence for the child, would be disadvantageous to natural humans. Critics argue that the unintended consequences of genome-editing technology, such as mutations, are a critical safety concern among researchers. Complex biological, lifestyle and environmental conditions may cause mutations even after modifications to genomes. Unwanted mutations may cause alterations to the human genre and result in imperfections or conditions such as cystic fibrosis. Bioethicists regard this an unethical medical operation that is unjustified. Bioethicists purport to have a reasonable case against designer babies because of the shortcomings of in vitro fertilization. Besides, the counterargument that the genetic-modifying technologies could be challenging to regulate is worth considering. For instance, Gumer highlights a possible loss of natural human genes as one of the leading issues to consider before researchers allow genetic modification (150). As indicated in the study by Gumer, the desire to have superior characteristics promised by genetic modification could push the demand for designer babies and possibly compromise the perception that humans are naturally born and bred if the two issues arise, as they are likely. It is justified to worry about having superhuman that is genetically-manufactured from designer babies. However, the benefits discussed to highlight the idea that designer babies are the future of the human race.

The debate on whether the world should adopt the recent developments in research and technology is reliant on the ethical twist in its findings. As argued, the thought of having a super-

human manufactured through laboratory-enabled technologies is considered unethical. There are concerns about the likelihood that gene modification will compromise most of the natural abilities of humans and give an undeserved advantage to others. Notwithstanding, it is time the world considered the benefits of designer babies because of the reported advantages. Primarily, designer babies could be the solution to genetic disorders, which are some of the leading causes of incurable diseases and conditions. Different studies have sought to discover and establishing critically fatal conditions and diseases. Particularly, the emphasis has been on conditions transmitted through genes and concerns of having a perfect human-made from designer babies. Scientists recommend the application of this technology as a way to resolve the prevalence of genetic conditions. The essay has underscored the idea that designer babies could be an effective and plausible solution for infertility in addition to producing humans with advanced capabilities.

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Outline

Introduction

Background: Advanced fertility technology applied to make designer babies has been a cause of contentious debates with critics' viewpoints highlighting possibilities of its abuse, which evokes fears.

Thesis: Designer babies are the future of the world, majorly because they promise to increase the human potential, deal with genetic disorders, and bolster the probability of human reproduction beyond the natural means.

Body Paragraphs

- I. Gene modification increases the likelihood for human potential
 - a) Many people around the globe are aware of the benefits of genetic engineering and the fact that the technology has been used to improve the qualities of plants and animals alike, such as better environmental adaptability and others.
 - b) Designer babies could be one of the ways of solving the fear of passing down undesired traits to children
 - c) Persons who are genetically engineered to adapt to their physical environments perform better relative to the naturally-born ones
- II. Gene modification helps in dealing with natural genetic disorders
 - a) Most genetic defects, mostly those that result in disease and adverse health could be dealt with through genetic engineering and the alteration of the human genome.
 - b) Most genetic defects, mostly those that result in disease and bad health could be dealt with through genetic engineering and alteration of the human genome.

- c) Genetic engineering to create a new species of people has the potential for dealing with complex diseases

III. The world should support designer babies because they increase the chance that humans will eventually deal with the issue of infertility.

- a) The incidence of infertility around the world should be a shocking statistic
- b) Everyone may be sensitive to the likelihood that the global population will surpass the capacity for natural resources and strain the world of supportive environments.
- c) Designer babies are meant to overcome the natural challenges that humans experience

IV. Researchers may argue for the benefits and possible advantages of designer babies, but they still have to convince the world of the ethical acceptability of their arguments.

- a) Technologies could create an unexpected advantage for some people over others and that some of the applicable technologies could lead to many other problems, especially if they are unchecked
- b) Bioethicists regard this an unethical medical operation that is unjustified
- c) The desire to have super characteristics promised by genetic modification could push the demand for designer babies and possibly compromise the perception that humans are naturally born and bred

Conclusion

- I. The debate on whether the world should adopt the recent developments in research and technology is reliant on the ethical twist in its findings
- II. Designer babies are the future of the world, majorly because they promise to increase the human potential, deal with genetic disorders, and bolster the probability of human reproduction beyond the natural means.