



A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE REGARDING SURROGACY AMONG COUPLES.

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ABSTRACT

Infertility is the major problem faced by reproductive age people throughout the world. Even then less focus is made on educating the couple regarding infertility and reproductive technology in India. According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 8-10% of couples experience some form of infertility problems. Knowledge of infertile couples about surrogacy is a fundamental parameter to optimize the infertility treatment and conduct it cooperatively.

Material and Method: This study was based on descriptive survey approach. In this study, 30 couples are included. The setting of the study was couples who attended OPD of infertility clinic.

Result: Studies shows that majority of couples had good knowledge. Most of the couples had agree attitude regarding assisted reproductive technology. There was negative correlation between the knowledge and attitude of couples who attended infertility clinic.

Conclusion: The couples have good and average knowledge regarding surrogacy. Attitude regarding surrogacy was uncertain and agree. Demographic variables did not show a major role in the knowledge and attitude regarding surrogacy.

KEYWORDS : Knowledge , Attitude, surrogacy, & Infertility clinic.

1. Introduction

Surrogate motherhood is variously described in emotive terms such as "rent a womb" or, on the other hand, "gift of love" or "gift of life" depending on a particular viewpoint. Regardless, surrogacy is a source of considerable legal, moral and ethical debate all over the world.

A surrogate mother¹ is a woman who agrees to be artificially inseminated with the sperm of a man whose own wife is incapable of conceiving or carrying a child to term. In the typical case, the surrogate mother conceives, carries the child for nine months, gives birth, and then releases her parental rights, giving up the child to the infertile couple for adoption. Although surrogacy has occurred throughout history, the issue is currently firm on the public agenda. New reproductive technologies have added significantly to the potential of surrogacy, making it necessary for the law to specifically address all aspects of the issue. There are moves to introduce surrogacy legislation in India.¹

Surrogacy is defined as "the practice whereby one woman carries a pregnancy for another persons as the result of an agreement prior to conception that the child should be handed over to that person after birth" (Brazier et al., 1998). In the traditional method, known as 'partial', 'straight' or 'genetic' surrogacy, the surrogate mother and the commissioning father are the genetic parents of the child and conception is through artificial insemination. However, IVF techniques mean that is now possible to implant an embryo created by the gametes of the commissioning couple in the surrogate mother. In this situation, known as 'full', 'host' or 'gestational' surrogacy, the role of the surrogate mother is purely gestational and the child is genetically related to both of the intended parents. It is also possible that a donor egg may be used, in which case the genetic mother, the gestational mother and the intended mother are three separate people. These unique aspects of surrogacy have led to it becoming the most controversial of all the assisted reproductive techniques in recent years.²

2. Problem statement

A study to assess the knowledge and attitude regarding surrogacy among couples.

3.Objectives

- 1) To assess the knowledge regarding surrogacy among couples.
- 2) To assess the attitude regarding surrogacy among couples.
- 3) To correlate knowledge and attitude regarding surrogacy among couples.
- 4) To associate the knowledge score with selected demographic variables
- 5) To associate the attitude score with selected demographic variables.

4.Methodology

Research approach:- Descriptive survey approach is used in this study.

Research design:- Descriptive Research design is used in this study.

Setting of the study:- The study will be conducted on the couples who are attending outpatient department of infertility clinics.

Sample:- In this study the samples are couples who are attended out patient department of infertility clinic.

Sampling Technique:- In this study, non probability Purposive sampling technique is used.

Sample size:- 30 couple.

Tool- structured knowledge questionnaire including demographic variables will be used for the study.

SAMPLING CRITERIA

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

- 1) Couples present at the time of the study.
- 2) Who are willing to participate in the study.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

- 1) Those couples having already participated in such studies.
- 2) Couple who had secondary infertility.

• Result

This section deals with the assessment of knowledge of the couples regarding surrogacy. The level of knowledge is divided under following headings: poor, average, good, very good, excellent.

Table 1 : Knowledge score of the couples regarding surrogacy
n=30

Level of knowledge score	score	Percentage score	Knowledge score	
			Frequency	Percentage (%)
Poor	1-3	0-20%	0	00
Average	4-6	21-40%	1	3.33%
Good	7-10	41-60%	25	83.33%
Very good	11-13	61-80%	2	6.66%
Excellent	13-15	81-100%	2	6.66%
Minimum Score	6			
Maximum Score	15			
Mean Score	9.00±2.50			
Mean Percentage	60%			

The above table no. 1 shows The frequency and percentage wise distribution of couples according to level of knowledge regarding surrogacy. The levels of knowledge were seen into 5 categories, poor, average, good, very good and excellent. 0% of the couples had poor level of knowledge score, 3.33% had average, 83.33% had good and 6.66% had very good knowledge, 6.66% had excellent level of knowledge score.

Table 2: Attitude score of the couples regarding surrogacy
n=30

Level of attitude score	score	Percentage score	Attitude score	
			Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly disagree	1-15	1-20%	00	00
Disagree	16-30	21-40%	00	00
Undecided	31-45	41-60%	16	53.33%
Agree	46-60	61-80%	14	46.66%
Strongly agree	61-75	81-100%	00	00
Minimum Score			32	
Maximum Score			55	
Mean Score			45.20±1.087	
Mean Percentage			60.26%	

The above table no 2 shows the frequency and percentage wise distribution of patients according to level of attitude regarding surrogacy. The levels of attitude were seen into 5 categories, Stronglydisagree, Disagree, Uncertain, Agree, Strongly agree. The result shows that 0% of the patients were "Strongly disagree" and "Disagree", 53.33% were "Uncertain". 46.66 % were "Agree" and no one is "Strongly agree" about attitude score.

This section deals with the association of knowledge score and attitude scores with demographic variables of the study participants. One way ANOVA and unpaired 't' test were used for the same.

Table 3: Correlation between knowledge scores and attitude scores of the couples regarding surrogacy

	Overall	Mean	SD	Mean Percentage	r-value	p-value
Attitude	45.20	1.087	60.26%		NS,p>0.05	

Table no 3 depicts the correlation between knowledge and attitude score of the couples regarding surrogacy in selected hospitals. The statistical Pearson's correlation coefficient reveals negative correlation between knowledge score and attitude score of the couples regarding surrogacy.

Discussion

The finding of the study shows that overall knowledge was good, where there is no significant association between knowledge score and demographic variables and the couples does not have certain attitude towards surrogacy, where there is no significant association between knowledge score and demographic variable.

While transnational commercial surrogacy in India has recently attracted the attention of journalists and feminist scholars critical of a novel and particularly intimate example of labor out sourcing, surrogacy in India is not only about global inequalities. In this research report, I call attention to silences in the most well-known accounts of surrogacy to the persistent local inequalities that structure infertility treatment in general—and surrogacy in particular. I argue that the disappearance of medical professionals' perceptions of surrogates as "laborers" and of Indian infertility experiences in these accounts occurs not only because of significant challenges to data collection, but also because of widespread naturalization of inequality. Local inequalities that structure transnational surrogacy in India, in particular, and infertility treatment, in general, tend to escape the purview of examinations that employ a transnational frame. Most research on gestational surrogacy in India does not focus on the options available to Indians who face infertility. The few studies that put the dynamics of infertility among people living in India at the centre of analysis have yet to explore fully the "reproscapes" of infertility among people in India.[surrogacy, infertility, inequality, India, transnational]³

In this qualitative study, in-depth interviews were conducted with 15 surrogates from India. Two themes are discussed: (1) motivations for becoming surrogates and (2) role of family and community in surrogacy. The respondents were illiterate women aged 21–30 years and had been surrogate mothers an average of 2 times. Motivations for surrogacy were financial in nature. Surrogates reported stigma from extended family and community forcing them to leave their homes and relocate after surrogacy. This study recommends counseling and psychosocial support services to women and change in policy to execute a stringent law to protect the rights of surrogates.⁴

Conclusion

The couples do not have 100% knowledge and attitude regarding surrogacy.

Demographic variables did not show a major role in the knowledge and attitude regarding surrogacy and there was a negative correlation between the knowledge and attitude regarding surrogacy.

Recommendations

On the basis of the findings of the study, it is recommended that the following studies can be conducted.

1. A similar study may be conducted on a larger population for generalization of findings.
2. Studies may be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of information booklet regarding surrogacy to upload the knowledge to the infertile couples.
3. A study may be conducted to assess the existing knowledge and attitude of staff nurses working in IVF centers regarding surrogacy.
4. A structured teaching programme may be used in the hospitals, so that the entire nurses can participate in improving the knowledge surrogacy.

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