

Debate on Surrogacy in the United States; The Content Analysis of The New York Times and The Washington Times

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Abstract

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Survey of Family Growth, 1 in 8 couples and about 10 percent of women (6.1 million) in the United States have difficulty getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy; while 7.4 million women, or 11.9% of women, have ever received any infertility services in their lifetime. Worldwide, an estimated 48.5 million couples are impacted by infertility. Since the United States has passed the first formal legal surrogacy agreement in 1976, until 1988, approximately 600 children have successfully be born through surrogacy and between 1988 and 1992, the number rose to over 5,000 births. Despite the number of surrogate babies born every year never stop growing and has helped many couples and individuals who have been suffering from infertility, the controversies and debates surrounding surrogacy still getting more and more intense making the worldwide legalization on surrogacy seems to be left in an indefinite future. While laws and ethics cannot keep up with the medical advances, loopholes are everywhere and are especially alluring for surrogate agencies to take advantage of it while deficient laws cannot only threat surrogates' rights but also surrogate babies' and intended parents'. Concerns start to arise, stirring a strong backlash in the society. People start to question about the accuracy of having babies via surrogacy.

Since the United States has the longest history on surrogacy, the author chose the nation as her research target and has analyzed over 300 reports upon the issue from The New York Times and The Washington Times to have a sound research elaborating its evolution history and a series of

actual cases upon the benefit it has brought to the society and its humanitarian problems aiming to find out obstacles against surrogacy that have been blocking its way from legalization while acknowledging the benefits it has shaded on the society. There is merely a doubt that if surrogacy can one day be legalized worldwide, thousands upon thousands more of people who have difficulties to have babies by their own can be benefited or at least have one more option to welcome a new member to their families.

Keywords: Surrogacy, United States, infertility, controversies, legalization, humanitarian problems, The New York Times, The Washington Times