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SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEM

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Topicality. Starting a family can be a wonderful time in one's life. However, there are many who long to have children, but for one reason or another, are unable to conceive. Currently, there is a solution to the problem due to the process of surrogacy. Surrogacy involves the carrying of an embryo and the subsequent birth of a baby by one woman, referred to as the surrogate, for another individual or couple. There are two primary types of surrogacy – traditional and gestational. Surrogacy is a very controversial practice around the world, raising difficult moral, social and legal issues. Surrogacy is balancing on a very sharp ethical edge mixing the perceived «sacred» process of reproduction and having children with work and money. Many people believe that these two domains should not mix.

Objective: To study the opinion of medical students in different countries about the problem of surrogate motherhood.

Materials and methods. Analysis of scientific articles and Internet resources was performed to systematize the information on the problem. The method of questionnaire poll was used to collect the data. The research involved 100 respondents among the BSMU students and 150 respondents among the North-West St. Petersburg Medical University (NWSMU) students from 20 to 23 years old. The questionnaire was drawn up in collaboration with a student from NWSMU.

Results and discussion. The analysis of students' answers showed the following results. Most students (54% in NWSMU and 42,6% in BSMU) think that surrogate mothers do useful work, because they give people the chance to have natural children. The majority of students (77% in NWSMU and 72,3% in BSMU) admit the possibility of using the service of a surrogate mother. At the same time 7,3% of Belarusian respondents believe that this measure can be used only in case if people can't have children on their own (12% of Russian respondents), and 17,8% believe that this is normal in any situation (15,2% among Russian students). About 20% of all students did not recognize the surrogacy possible.

Conclusion.

1. 100% of respondents know about the existence of the surrogacy problem.
2. Every second student believes that surrogate motherhood is a solution to infertility problems, every third participant thinks that surrogacy has the right to exist.
3. 17,8% students of BSMU and 19,3% students of NWSMU find it impossible to use the service of surrogate mothers under any circumstances.