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## **СУРРОГАТНОЕ МАТЕРИНСТВО: ЧТО МЫ ЗНАЕМ О ПРОБЛЕМЕ**

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**Резюме.** В данной статье представлен социологический опрос, в котором показано мнение студентов Белорусского государственного медицинского университета и Санкт-Петербургской государственной медицинской академии имени И. И. Мечникова по проблеме суррогатного материнства.

**Ключевые слова:** суррогатное материнство, социологический опрос, эмбрион, процесс репродукции, этическая проблема.

**Resume.** The article presents a sociological survey that shows the opinion of the students of Belarusian State Medical University and North-Western State Medical University in St. Petersburg on the surrogate motherhood problem.

**Keywords:** surrogate motherhood, sociological survey, embryo, reproduction process, ethical problem.

**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 [4]. Traditional surrogacy (also known as partial, genetic, or straight surrogacy) involves natural or artificial insemination of a surrogate. If the intended father's sperm is used in the insemination, then the resulting child is genetically related to the intended father and genetically related to the surrogate. If donor sperm is used, the resulting child is not genetically related to either intended parent(s) but is genetically related to the surrogate. Gestational surrogacy (also known as host or full surrogacy) was first achieved in April 1986. It takes place when an embryo created by in vitro fertilization (IVF) technology is implanted in a surrogate. Gestational surrogacy may take a number of forms, but in each form the resulting child is genetically unrelated to the surrogate.

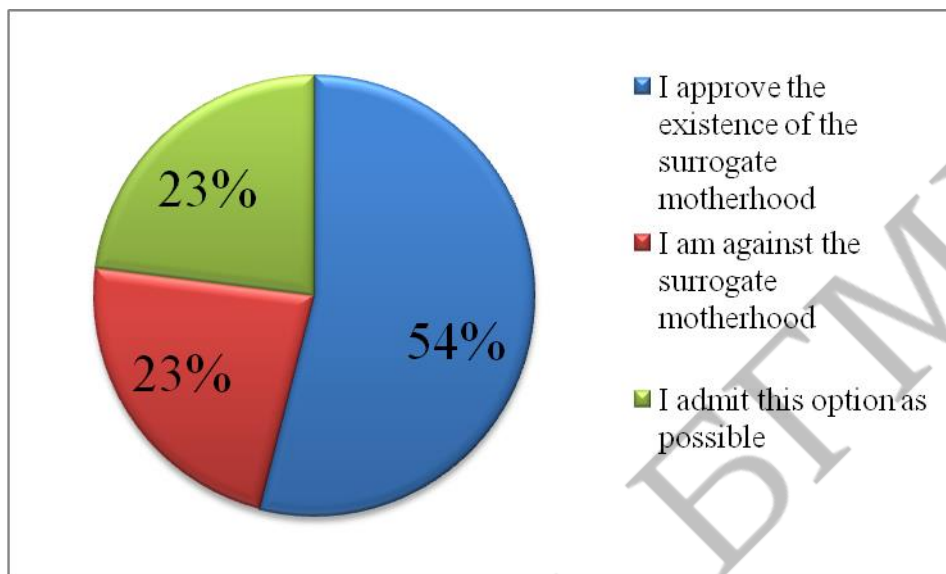
Surrogacy is a very controversial practice around the world, raising difficult moral, social and legal issues [2]. Surrogacy is balancing on a very sharp ethical edge mixing the perceived «sacred» process of reproduction and having children with work and money. Many people believe that these two domains should not mix.

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

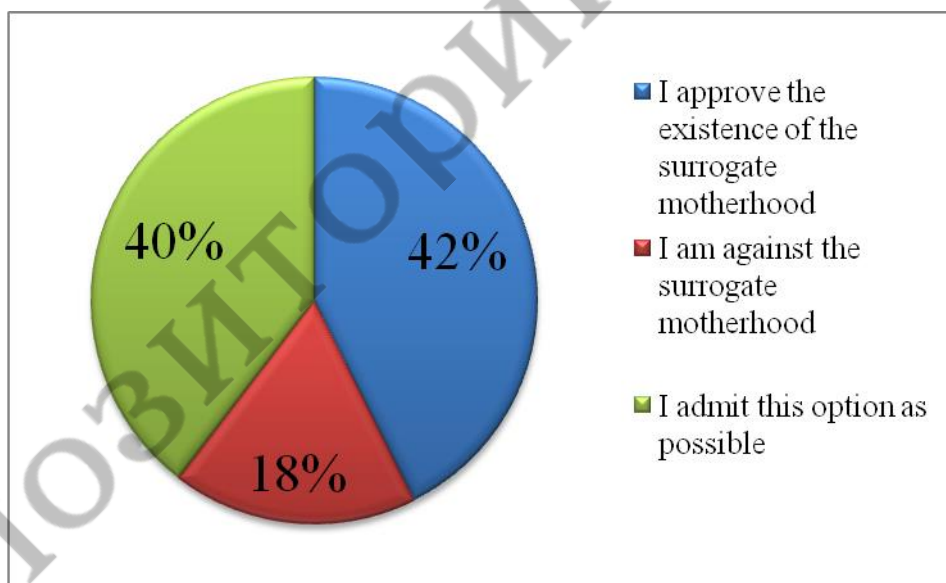
**Materials and methods.** Analysis of scientific articles and Internet resources was performed to systematize the information on the problem. The method of questionnaire poll was used to collect the data. The research involved 100 respondents among the BSMU students and 150 respondents among the North-West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

**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 (picture №1, picture №2).

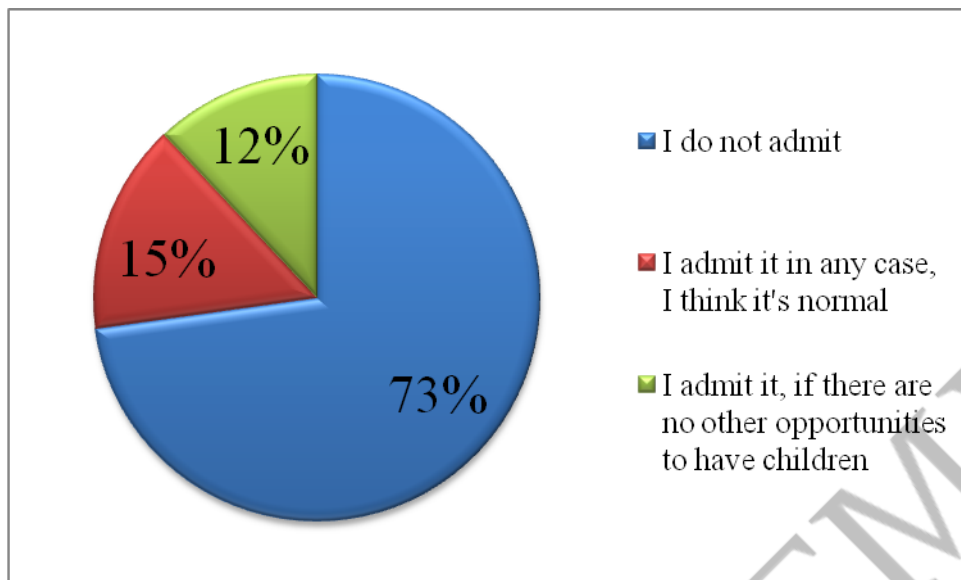


**Picture 1** – How do you feel about the surrogate motherhood program? (answers of NWSMU respondents)

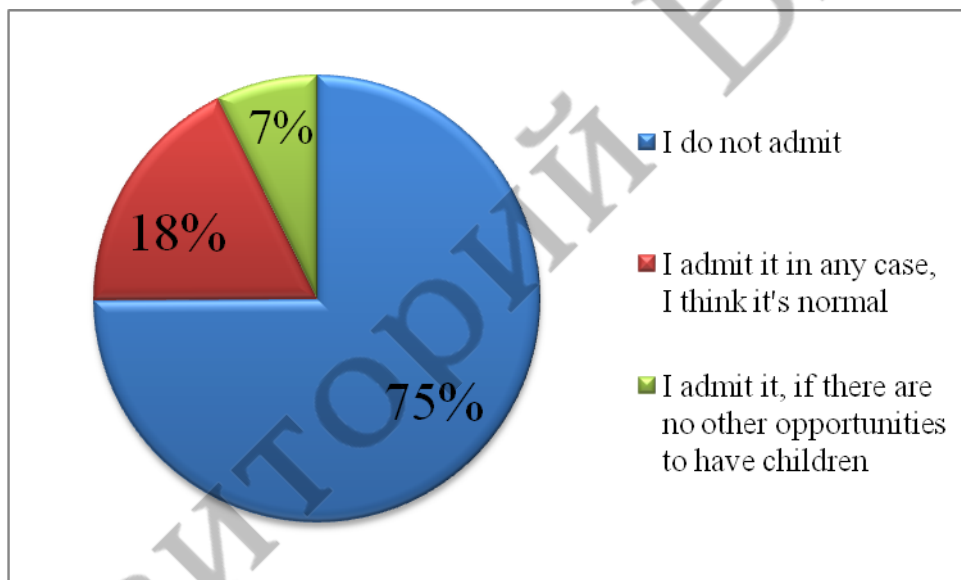


**Picture 2** – How do you feel about the surrogate motherhood program? (answers of BSMU respondents)

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 (picture №3, picture №4).



**Picture 3** – Do you allow the use of this type of reproduction?  
(answers of NWSMU respondents)



**Picture 4** – Do you allow the use of this type of reproduction?  
(answers of BSMU respondents)

**Conclusions:**

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. 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).
4. 17,8% students of BSMU and 19,3% students of NWSMU find it impossible to use the service of surrogate mothers under any circumstances.

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**SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD: WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEM**

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