

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Should Necessity Triumph Ethics? Perception on Assisted Reproductive Technology among Women in Eastern India**

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**Abstract:** The links between health, society and technology can be witnessed in the era of globalization through developments in science and technology, which enable new forms of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Obviously, technical developments concerned directly with the treatment of patients generate a lot of excitement as well as anxiety. Developments in medical technologies in specific areas, for instance, Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) offers an illuminating case study of the local/global intersections and sheds light on how such technology interacts in the field of health and gender. The objective of this paper is to understand the context(s) and process through which ART is introduced to the arena of public health, the assumed and expected functions and roles of such technology, and risks that such technology may have on the users. Drawing from theoretical insights with an empirical grounding through extensive fieldwork (comprising in-depth interviews with 'users/ patients' and 'providers/practitioners') the paper focused on diverse geographic locations in eastern India (Odisha). The paper argues that the technology is, in fact, instrumental in 'fixing' bodies, making them fit for the demands of the society (to enact the potential identity), to the extent that medicalization of the infertility is designed to deal with 'incapacity', with failure and with a flawed body. Thus, the paper attempts focusing on the experiential trajectories for users/patients resorting to ART and bringing a triad of practices, institutions and beliefs together in a single overarching argument.

**Keywords:** Technology, Gender, Body, identity, medicalization

**\* The Author was awarded Professor Radha Kamal Mukerjee Young Social Scientist Award in the Contest held during the Conference: Science, Technology and Society at Indore Christian College, Indore on January 6-7, 2018.**