

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BIOETHICS IN GLOBAL SOCIETY

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## **ABSTRACT**

Applied ethics is being experienced in every field of life. For example, professional, environmental, legal, administrative, medical, engineering, management and biological. Here we have discussed bioethics only.

Bioethics is the study of moral issues in the fields of biology and health. Both science and religion are human made. All the environmental problems are also manmade. In order to face these problems, humanity needs a base. Hitherto religion served as a suitable base to contain the ill effects of human developmental activities. Hence the biodiversity and natural ecosystems were maintained. However, due to the advancement of science and technology religion has lost its suitability to serve as a base and no other suitable replacement has been found yet but the possibility still exists to recognize spirituality though not religion per se, as the common underlying factor.

**INTRODUCTION:** The issues that are raised due to science and technology during this third and the new millennium are so different to new bioethics. The present paper attempts to call out the richness of the ancient bio-ethically oriented culture and examines whether these ancient precepts and practices can serve as a means to bring about an improvement in the quality of life in global society.

Biotechnology has now perfected the technique for identifying the sequence of the building units in the DNA. Since the sequence is characteristic for an organism and an individual, the study of DNA can also be used as finger prints to identify an individual human.

It is well-known that many diseases in man run in the family. Some of them occur due to genetic deficiency or genetic malformation. If the correct and right type of gene is supplemented into the patient the symptoms should vanish. This has happened in few genetically linked diseases, a line of treatment called gene therapy has been developed. The gene therapy can be attempted on the unborn foetus to develop a healthy child at birth.

**IMPACT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:** With the rapid advancement of modern science and technology, new problems are introduced into human society. The dictum “Technology is power” is replacing the familiar enigmatic statement “Knowledge is power”. The new issues that humanity is facing, due to biotechnological revolution, are in the field of genetic engineering by which nature can be modified by human technology. The biotic components will be replaced by “species of design” Current issues that are raised by science and technology are: environmental pollution, water resource management, globalization, intellectual property rights, genetic engineering (GE), genetically modification of organism living modified organism (GMO), genetically modified food and food products, gene therapy, status of the embryo, genetic screening of human pre-embryos, human stem cell research, genetic sex selection. Female foeticide, infant foeticide, assisted reproductivity technology like In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), embryo transfer and surrogate motherhood, biological parenthood, euthanasia, problems of the elderly population, and child-use and abuse.

Genetic engineering has designed plants with desirable features. Genetic manipulation has produced many crop plant varieties, some resistant to drought, some to flooding and others to pest attacks. Such

genetically transformed plants and animals are now a reality. Some genetically modified animals have been made. The target of genetic engineering does not involve a gene or a few genes but now include a whole cluster of genes. A whole fresh animal has been obtained from a few cells of an individual through a process now called cloning. In this way, cloning means the production of an organism that is genetically identical to its parent.

Manipulation of the genetic make- up of a living organism can help eradicate genetically linked diseases in humans and hunger in the underdeveloped countries, produce transgenic plants and animals, clone animals and even humans. The destruction of the storms resulted in an unclear arsenal capable of mass destruction. Biotechnology and genetic engineering may provide man with lethal silent killers that can destroy or disable millions of humans.

**CONCEPT AND APPLICATION OF BIOETHICS IN PRESENT DAY SOCIETY:-** The field of bioethics, always complex and controversial, has grown even more of with the advent of advanced technologies and treatments. In Vitro fertilization techniques to help infertile couples conceive, raise a host of ethical issues including how couples should choose sperm or egg donors, and what to do with fertilized eggs not implanted. Ethicists are also concerned with how scarce and expensive advanced treatments such as In Vitro Fertilization, organ transplants and the antiretroviral AIDS treatments should be distributed throughout society.

The revolution in biological sciences in this century has now also become a big moral question. Correct application of biology is correct bioethics. The response to the question of bioethics will determine the future of mankind. This biological revolution has to be tamed for the good of making which can be achieved only if humane boundaries are imposed on these biotechnological and genetic engineering endeavours. We have to agree morally at the international level not only on the limitation of means but also as defining permissible bio-scientific pursuits. There was a time when one could say-science of neither moral nor immoral but revelatory. After 1st and 2nd world war science has to be harnessed with moral responsibilities. Science processes power that has to be strapped with responsibilities.

The rapidly evolving field of genetic engineering in particular is introducing some of the greatest challenges ever faced in bioethics as humans develop the ability to affect changes to living matter that were beyond imagination in the past decade or two. Current areas in experimental genetics of interest to bioethics include cloning, stem cell research, embryos, Gene patenting and Genetic testing.

**THE CONTROVERSIAL IMPACT:** After 1952 researches in molecular biology has started unraveling the secrets of life. Man is attaining capabilities to alter nature and make it completely subservient to himself. Artificial insemination, gene therapy, gene alteration, rendering some genes defunct, adding genes and chromosomes to existing gene complex and genome, cloning and organ transplants have opened up chances of unconscious errors which can lead to serious harm to mankind. If cloning is ethically accepted, should the bio-scientist be allowed to make copies of human beings. Can they be allowed to genetically manipulate to create children after the death of their mother or father ? Some of ethical questions that are being asked are :

1. Should biological engineered hormone be used to increase milk production in animal and humans?
2. Can the scientist who has identified and isolated a gene get it patented and own it?

Since September Eleventh of 2002, the course of human existence has been put under stress end, Education was so far considered as a means to achieve a desired end. However, we need to have a paradigm shift in our approach. We need to replace the existing words like “cell” and “network” with order words that

are spiritual in its outlook. This approach will provide a suitable base for developing a global ethics for a global society.

Ethics reflects on the morals of a society, It permits a distinction between the moral principles and fundamental conviction. Ethics argues from the standpoint of morals where as science is revelatory and secular. Linkages between ethics and science have to be established. Bio-scientists have not only to be in tune with internationally accepted morals but governed by an International convention on Bioethics. The world has talked a lot on CTBT, what we need now is CTAB-Comprehensive treaty on application of Bio-technology.

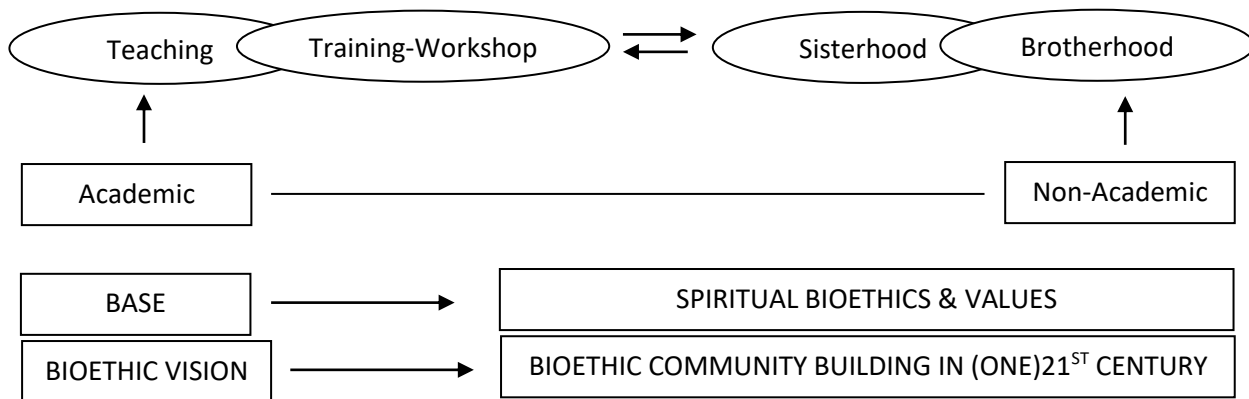
**Conclusion :** In Global society, every area of health care is influenced by bioethics. Some individuals believe bioethics results in legislation that unnecessarily impedes the progress of science. On the other hand, some individuals believe the field of bioethics is increasingly important as research technologies develop with the potential to strip away human privacy, and even to alter the definition of human life. Private and public health care organizations have attempted to present ethical guidelines for practitioners. For example, the American Medical Association's Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs sets ethics policy for the American Medical Association (AMA), and AMA's Institute for Ethics investigates how professional ethics can be integrated into health care. Other organization such as the American Association of the Advancement of science, take formal positions on various bioethical issues to guide health care practitioners and the general public.

Thus we can say that Bioethics is relevant for betterment of Global Society and Bio-scientist must not have to take any step regarding scientific development without considering some important issues which are directly related to human centimeters. Issues may be political, religious and social or by and large all the issues which can affect the global society.

Richard Barbe Baker was a forester in Kenya and was responsible for the formation of the organization "Men of the Trees" in 1992. He wrote a "prayer for the Trees".

*We thank the Oh God, for the Trees,  
Thou comest very near to us  
From them we have  
Beauty, wisdom, love  
The air we breathe,  
The water we drink, the food we eat  
And the strength,  
Help us, Oh God!  
To give our best to life  
And worthy for having lived in it.  
Prosper thou our planting,  
And establish thy Kingdom of love  
And understanding on Earth. Amen.*

**BIOETHICS BUILDS – TERRORISM DESTROYS**



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