

HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

Kishinchand Chellaram College



Under the aegis of DBT Star Status and Star Scheme

PRESENTS

Edu-Link Lecture Series 2021-22

Lecture – 03

SURROGACY (Regulation) BILL

And its Implications on Reproductive Tourism in India

The Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College, HSNC University under the aegis of DBT Star Status, organized an interactive session on the topic 'Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill and its Implications on Reproductive Tourism Industry in India' on 20th September, 2021 on the Zoom platform. Advocate Amisha Nadu, Advocate, D.M Harish & Co, Bombay High Court was the esteemed resource person for the event. The session had an audience of 100 participants comprising of the second year and third year undergraduate students and teachers from various colleges of Mumbai along with the faculty of Department of Life Sciences, K.C. College and several dignitaries.

The webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Sagarika Damle, Head of Department of Life Sciences and Coordinator of DBT Star Status who welcomed Adv. Amisha Nadu and the participants attending the session. Ma'am hoped that the session would be a wonderful learning experience for the students, followed by Dr. Tejashree Shanbhag, Vice Principle, K.C. College who emphasized the importance of Edu-Link Series as a platform where current students connect with alumni of the Life Sciences Department to share their knowledge and expertise in respective fields. The interactive interview session with the resource person was conducted by two student volunteers from the department of Life Sciences. Ma'am gave a brief introduction by explaining Surrogacy as a 'Triangle intending to be a Square'.

Further Adv. Amisha Nadu elaborated on 'Surrogacy in India' and explained 'since its blow up in 2002' Surrogacy was and is well perceived in India. This opened up the gates to surrogacy trade where many foreigners came to India to have a surrogate child which then led to the emergence of black market in several states of north India. To prevent the exploitation of surrogate mothers, the government passed a bill in 2014 which stated that foreigners are not permitted for surrogacy in India. Furthermore, Ma'am explained that even after the bill was passed, the Assisted Reproductive Technologies were largely unregulated and were carried out



blatantly without any proper management and lacked the necessity of a written contract.

Moreover, Adv. Amisha Nadu elucidated various other laws and impending bills to be passed, one of which was the ART bill 2020. The Surrogacy Regulation Bill 2019 defines surrogacy as a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an intending couple with the intention to hand over the child after birth to intending couple. Ma'am gave an in depth account of the regulation of surrogacy which prohibits commercial surrogacy as well as the purposes for which the surrogacy is permitted, for intending couples who suffer from proven infertility, altruistic and many more. She also discussed the eligibility criteria for intending couples including, 'Certificate of Essentiality' and 'Certificate of Eligibility' issued by appropriate authority. Ma'am cleared the concepts of eligibility criteria for surrogate mother, registration of surrogacy clinics and parentage and abortion of surrogate child. Further, Ma'am discussed about the exploitation of surrogate mothers and how there is a need for a law that protects all the vulnerable stakeholders especially the surrogate mothers.

Advocate Amisha Nadu with the substantial knowledge and experience in her field explained the concepts in an elucidative manner, making the session enlightening. Ma'am addressed all the questions from the participants patiently, thus ensuring that the concepts were clarified. The session served its purpose of explaining surrogacy regulation bill and its implications on reproductive tourism in India and ignited enthusiasm among participants in the said field. Overall, the participants were appreciative of the session and expressed their wish to attend more such educative and interactive session in future, making the webinar a great success.

