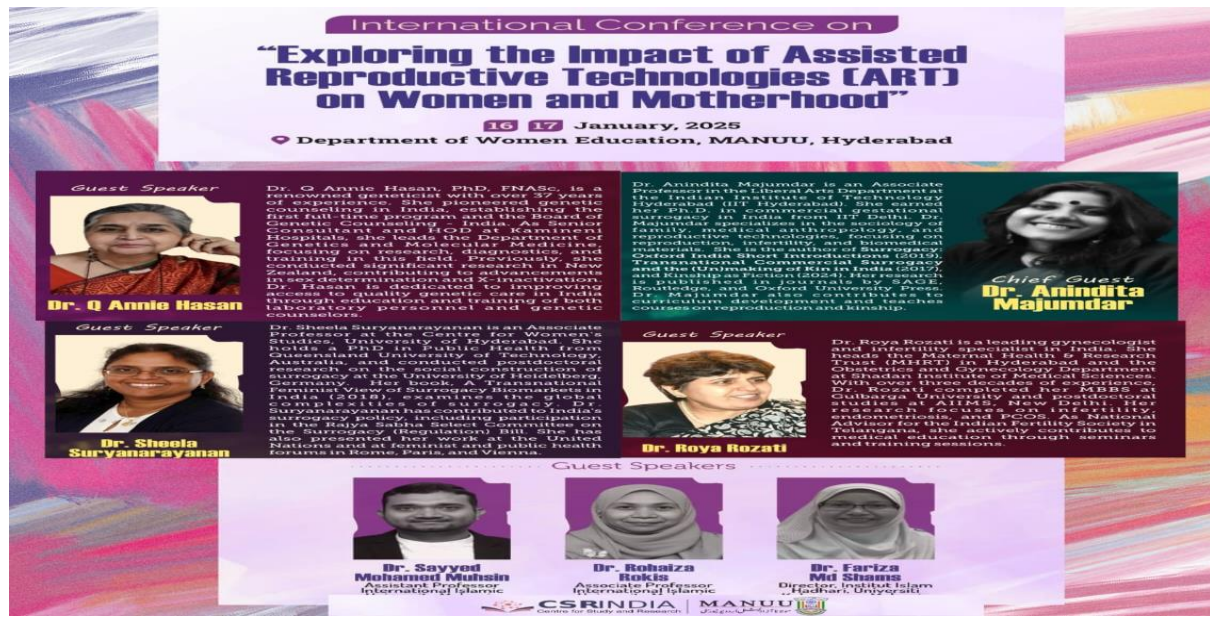


Two Day International Conference
on
“Exploring the impact of Assisted Reproductive Technologies ART on women and motherhood”
Organized by
Department of Women Education
In collaboration with
Centre for Study and Research (CSR) New Delhi
Report



Two day International Conference on “*Exploring the impact of Assisted Reproductive Technologies ART on women and motherhood*” was organized by Department of Women Education, MANUU, in collaboration with Centre for Study and Research (CSR) New Delhi on 16th & 17th January, 2025 in Syed Hamid Library Auditorium, MANUU.

Dr Ayesha Alvi presented the keynote address, which was well received and applauded by young scholars. Prof Ameena Tahseen conference director presented the welcome address, Dr Shabana Kesar was the organiser of the conference where as Dr Ayesha Alvi was coordinator representing CSR. Hon’ble Vice chancellor of the MANUU was intended chief guest but due to some urgency he has to leave for Delhi. Prof. Shahida, Dean, SA & SS, presided over the inaugural session. Dr M Rizwan Director CSR presented the valedictory address.

This conference was organised with the following objectives

1. To develop a discourse that goes beyond a superficial examination of technological prowess.
2. To encourage interdisciplinary discussions, urging participants to explore the intersection of technology, ethics, law, religion, culture, and feminism in the context of advanced reproductive technologies.
3. To unravel the transformative impact of ART technologies on women's lives, identities, and societal roles. This includes examining the broader implications for the concept of motherhood.

4. To explore the positive contributions that religion can make in this realm.

A pre-registration form was released which attracted overwhelming numbers of registration due to which the registration has to be closed. Over 150 research scholars' assistant professors attended the conference the departments who show keen interest where law, education, sociology, political science and media. International academy and researchers such as Dr Syed Muhsin from International Islamic University. Dr Rohaiza Rokis and Dr Fariza Shams from Institute Islam Hahari, UKM participated as international guest and delivered plenary lectures. Total of 12 peer review research papers were presented 6 plenary lectures were delivered. From Hyderabad prominent Indian academicians included professor Anindita Majumdar IIT Professor Sheela Suryanarayana, Hyderabad Central University (HCU) who played pivotal role in shaping ART discourses in India in the context of law making also delivered special address.

These objectives were envisaged to be achieved by dividing them in the following sub themes through various plenary lectures and with the key note and valedictory address.

1. Ethical dilemmas in artificial wombs.
 2. Commercialisation of motherhood: What is new in the old.
 3. ART and religious discourse: Navigating need and faith
 4. Feminism, motherhood and Beyond: The unravelling saga of ART
 5. Shaping ART Discourse: Feminism Neo-feminism and beyond
 6. Listening to surrogates: The Psychosocial Impact of Surrogacy on Surrogates
 7. ART and Family Structures: Reshaping or dismantling.
 8. Reproductive Tourism and Cross-Border ART: The Rich, the poor and the disadvantaged
- both the theme and the sub themes were largely applauded and very well received by the academic community

we get over whelming response and received number of papers but to our surprise we noted that some themes were not addressed by any of our academic community members such as how religious discourse informs us about use of ART.

Similarly, we did not receive much of the in-depth scholarship on psycho social impact of surrogacy on the surrogates.

This conference however offered springboard for further deliberations on assisted ARTs and their impact on women and motherhood and more generally it offered a platform for discussion and deliberation on a very sensitive topic.

Following are the resolutions which are adopted by the conference.

1. This conference sees the rise of assisted reproductive technology particularly surrogacy IVF and freezing of gametes to be a terrain we should carefully navigate.
2. On the one hand this conference sees assisted reproductive technology as a very powerful transformative force for those who are suffering from clinical conditions who may avail ART. On the other hand, injudicious and rampant and popular fashion trend will make it an exploitation tool.

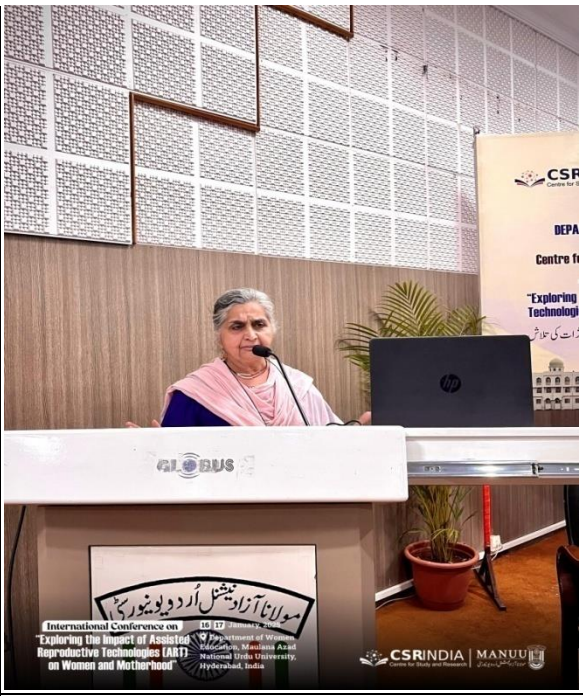
3. This conference believes that unnecessary usage of ART inspired by materialistic pursuits or disguised under individual liberalism (utilitarian approach) will not be healthy in longer run for Indian society.
4. This conference believes that the ethical social and legal consideration and rights for altruistic surrogacy also needs to be further refined.
5. The conference urges all the policy makers and stakeholders to evolve guidelines for the use of assisted reproductive technology on urgent basis.
6. The conference urges all the stakeholders of ART to practice accepted ethical standards in running such clinics. The practice of ART should manifest our ethos of dignity compassion and inclusiveness while reaping the fruits ART.
7. This conference sees the rise of greedy commercialisation as a great danger for the vulnerable who are opting for assisted reproductive technology.
8. This conference calls for serious intellectual deliberations regarding the uniform regulation of ART technology across India, the conference believes that this regulation should reflect the sentiments of the people of the land and common sense to be prevailed in formulation these regulations.

Key Outcomes and Recommendations of this conference can be stated as

1. **Well informed Policy and stricter Regulation grounded in our ethos**
The conference highlighted the deep questions about ethical use of ART in clinical settings and urges Government and international bodies should develop clear ethical guidelines and policies for ART practices, **ensuring its judicious, legal and need based use and preventing exploitation.**
2. **Mass Education and Awareness with cautionary messages**
The deliberations in the conference calls for mass education and informed risk and benefit ratio both in policy and practice alongside educating the stake holders the ethical and foundation questions these technology poses. **Public awareness campaigns should educate people about ART's benefits and risks, particularly addressing societal misconceptions about infertility and motherhood.**
3. **Religious and Ethical Frameworks:**
Faith-based communities, bioethicist, practitioners of ART should engage in dialogues for judicious use of these technologies
4. **Support Systems for Women using ART**
ground level effective and comprehensive Counselling and support and monitoring system should be integral to ART processes, to mitigate the emotional and psychological impacts on women.

The conference observed several heated discussions. Few guests were quite vocal on different point of departures in envisioning the usage of ART and religious beliefs.

Few glimpses of the program:



Prof. Ameena Tahseen
Director of conference

Dr. Shabana Kesar
Head, DWE & Co-ordinator of the conference