“EACH NEW POWER WON BY MAN IS A POWER OVER MAN AS WELL”

C.S. LEWIS (1965)

Leo Tolstoy once opined that science is meaningless because it gives no answer to our only important question for: “What shall we do and how shall we be?” Science cannot tell us how to live our life. It has nothing to say about ethics and moral issues. Although it is the scientist’s job to find the ways in which technologies serve the human being, but it is not only his responsibility to determine whether a nuclear weapon should be used or not. It is the society as a whole and lawyers in particular who must look for the framing and enforcing of moral code of human conduct. Recent developments in molecular biology and genetics have forced us to rethink and redefine our legal system.

The issues emanating from biological advancements represent an enormously significant area at the interface of science and society. These issues are not purely legal but interlinked with ethical, moral, social and economic issues. So, it is not an easy task to identity the legal problems concerned with human genome. This is a task which law can only fulfil if it is adequately informed and illuminated by scientific knowledge and ethical conduct.

Therefore, an interdisciplinary discussion of such an important area is imperative and necessary. The present work is an attempt to have an integrated look over the various legal and human rights issues along with the comparative legal positions in various countries regarding Human Genome and Modern Reproductive Techniques. International human rights instruments are analysed in reference. The subject of the research work is quite complex and few mistakes are obvious which are being regretted.

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(Krishna Ballave Sahai)
Research Scholar