



## Gene-edited babies project – Pros & Cons

### Description

#### Theme :-

- In November 2018, a Chinese scientist named “He Jiankui”™ claimed that he edited human embryos of a twin girls to make them HIV resistant. He did this to prevent passing of HIV from the twin girls’s father. He claimed that he used a gene editing tool, Crispr, which acts as a molecular scissors.
- This incident sparked debates across the world about the pros and cons of Gene-editing babies. Gene-editing of human embryos is illegal in many countries including China.

#### What is meant by Gene-edited babies :-

- Editing the genes of human embryos by cutting or modifying a specific strand of DNA produces Gene-edited babies.

#### Pros :-

- By using gene-editing technology, we can prevent heritable deadly diseases from passing on to the next generation.
- If we utilise this technology, it will be a boon to mankind by creating super humans.

#### Cons :-

- Negative effects of gene-editing are not known yet. It may involve causing cancerous tumours. It™ irreversibly change the future of healthy embryos.
- Edited genes will pass onto the future generations putting many people at risk.
- In vitro fertilization may become more common than ever. This makes everything artificial.
- It has a risk of creating designer babies, that are genetically elite. For example, rich people can give birth to high IQ & stronger babies. Even the appearance can also be chosen. This

creates a new type of inequality between rich and poor.

### **Conclusion :-**

If human embryo gene-editing is made legal, itâ€™ll be almost impossible to draw a line between designer babies and heritable disease resistant babies. After studying the implications of this technology thoroughly, itâ€™ll be helpful if it is strictly regulated and is used only with the permission of government.

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### **Your Turnâ€¦**

Do you think Gene-edited babies project is appreciable? Express your thoughts in the comment section below. Subscribe to our blog to receive updates whenever a new post is published.

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