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V

I believe it is unacceptable to genetically design a child because doing so would entail unjustifiable implications.

Suppose a couple in the near future decides to genetically engineer their unborn baby boy, so that he will have a better appearance. If his life turns out the way the parents desired, and he enjoys it himself as well, then it is good for them.

However, the social implications of such treatment would not be entirely positive. It might help create social atmosphere where less good-looking people are disrespected, and perhaps seen as something to be replaced with the help of technology. People might feel they would not have been born at all had there been access – whether economically or technologically – to the engineering.

Also, human body is so complicated that the effects of edits in genes might not come out exactly as intended. The baby boy might have to endure an incurable health problem, caused by the engineering that he never consented to. Other negative side effects might appear decades or generations later, too. Even to reduce such uncertainties would require experiments on humans, which is immoral and against the rules in the scientific community.

These concerns apply whether people try to design an intelligent-brained, disease-proof, or kind-hearted baby. We need to be extremely careful about genetic engineering on humans.