

### **Abstract**

The rise of surrogacy in India over the last decade helped individuals across the world to realise their parenting aspirations. Scholars, however, have critiqued surrogacy as a form of neo-colonial exploitation in a globalised world. In the macro-context of poverty in India, and the hierarchical and patriarchal family set-up, concerns are expressed about coercion of women to participate in surrogacy. Surrogacy is a rapidly increasing phenomenon in the contemporary Indian society with culture specific implications for the individual and family that need to be unravelled. This ethnographic study conducted at a surrogacy clinic in Anand, Gujarat, India aimed to address the issues involved in the process of surrogacy. In an intense nine months of engagement at the clinic, the study used participant observation and in-depth interviews with 41 surrogate mothers, and interactions with medical practitioners and surrogacy agents to explore the experiences of the surrogate mothers. Findings revealed the multiplicity of women's motivations for participation in surrogacy and the complexities of the decision making process. The surrogacy process geared towards enhancing success rates systematically objectified women entering surrogacy and marginalised their rights. The study offers new insights with significant implications for the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016 suggesting possible areas for amendments in it and proposes detailed guidelines for introducing a counselling component in the surrogacy practice.