

Gene Editing

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Gene Editing

Genetic Engineering is a process where DNA gets inserted, modified, deleted, or even replaced within a living organism's genome (Jasanoff & Hurlbut, 2018). This process is more advanced in the world today than it has ever been, and targets a specific location, say, a particular genome. There have been numerous arguments around the use of this process on human beings. The case against gene editing is based on the position that the act is entirely against human rights, and therefore engineers should stop utilizing it. This perception may have emanated from the harmful effects that arise from genome editing. The discovery of the first genome-edited humans by He Jiankui in China brought about huge arguments regarding the use of gene editing on human beings (Krishan et al., 2019). In 2019, lawyers began a campaign to ensure that any individual who made discoveries in gene editing that could potentially harm an individual would be responsible for any adverse effects that such a development would have. This paper will discuss the validity of utilizing gene editing on human beings and the impact that it has on them. Genetic editing has effectively been used in plants, but its use among human beings remains a highly contested issue. Gene editing is a violation of human rights, since, first of all, it demeans the nature of human beings and may go on to cause harm to the human race as well.

One of the main arguments against gene editing is based on the premise that gene editing is unnatural. Proponents of this argument claim that undertaking such an act interferes with natural processes (Jasanoff & Hurlbut 2018). However, the very nature of the world and how human beings interact with nature is a complete interference with nature. Some events and phenomena that occur in the world today are having adverse effects on human beings despite being unnatural. Throughout the existence of man, he has always looked for ways to

change the status quo, such as nature. Diseases are natural occurrences though human beings have worked from time immemorial to try and achieve a high level of interference with those aspects of life that harm human beings (Krishan et al., 2019). These include diseases for which man has always worked to develop solutions to try to ensure the continuity of life. Therefore, the claim that gene editing should not occur since it is unnatural is an entirely misguided school of thought. Almost every human being on earth has benefited from medicine, although it goes against the natural world. It is, therefore, hypocritical to again mention that gene editing is wrong just because it goes against natural laws.

One of the critical oppositions to gene editing is the fact that there has been little research into the adverse effects of genes. Genes play a very crucial role in human life since they determine every single process that forms a person's make up as a human being. There must be an understanding of what specific actions should be taken to ensure that genes do not have profoundly detrimental effects on human beings (Jasanoff & Hurlbut 2018). Gene editing in human beings holds excellent potential since it would be possible to avert effects such as hormonal imbalances, some diseases that may be hereditary, and possibly even disabilities. This is, however, only achievable if there is explicit knowledge of what such developments would have on other processes within the body. A great deal of Gene research conducted across the globe is focused on identifying the advantages of gene editing and the opportunities that the process holds for all human beings. However, there is little or no focus on the harmful effects they have on human beings. Medicine is considered appropriate in that it helps cure diseases (Krishan et al., 2019). However, the use of medicine still has various harmful side-effects, although these may be less harmful than the impact of the disease itself.

There is little research on the detrimental effects of gene editing, and therefore it would be an infringement of human rights to perform an act that would, in the end, harm human beings.

In conclusion, gene editing is an act that is entirely against human rights, considering the adverse effects it inflicts on human beings. Human beings stand at a point of great danger if the use of gene editing is propagated and promoted within many social environments. One of the significant challenges of gene editing is the fact that there is little research regarding the harmful effects it would have on human beings, seeing that it goes against the natural processes of human beings. This would pose a significant danger to human beings, mainly because there is little research into the harmful effects of the disease. There exists an argument that gene editing is unnatural and therefore contravenes human rights. However, many processes are against nature, such as medicine, and are greatly celebrated world over. This argument is, therefore, irrational and should not continue since human beings have already broken natural processes countless times before.

References

Jasanoff, S., & Hurlbut, J. B. (2018). A Global Observatory for Gene Editing. *Springer*

Nature. Retrieved from

https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-03270-w?mc_cid=d9f0ddd816&mc_eid=822a149de0

Krishan, K., Kanchan, T., Singh, B., Baryah, N., & Puri, S. (2018). Germline Editing: Editors

Cautionary. *La Clinica Terapeutica*, 169(2), e58-e59. Retrieved from

<http://www.clinicaterapeutica.it/ojs/index.php/ClinicaTerapeutica/article/view/144/80>