

**Should the Rights of the Unborn be More Important  
Than The Rights of the Mother in the United States?**

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Abstract

The use of interdisciplinary studies provides a common ground for different disciplines. The disciplines all study the same topic but view it in their own lens of study. The opportunity IDS300 interdisciplinary class provides is a self-chosen topic that will display three disciplines that have researched sinuously on one topic and form a study on the rights of the unborn importance or the rights of the mother. The focus on this topic is on the United States which will narrow down on the specifics of this research paper to be precisely in one country. As this approach is taken neither discipline will be correct or wrong but deciphered to a mutual understanding within each other with the assistance of the Interdisciplinary approach. The disciplines I have chosen to discuss are philosophy, sociology, and Law. This depicts the thoughts of others, the thoughts of the mothers' effect on the child, and what the law believes for both the rights of the unborn and mother.

**Introduction:**

The relevant problem that I am approaching is whether the unborn is considered as a human or fetus before it reaches the stages of development. Can the stages of the unborn be human at the start of the fetus which gives them the same rights as those among us that are living a daily life?

The question then approaches should the rights of the unborn be more important than the rights of the mother in the United States? The discussion on who can speak for the unborn is decided by the people, the mental state of the carrying mother, and the law at hand. The interdisciplinary approach is not on who is right or wrong but the research that is being used to come to form an understanding of the importance of the unborn and the importance of the rights of the mother.

The disciplines that have done research on this topic that I chose are psychology, sociology, and law. Psychology lens on this research topic contributes a sense of the mothers' emotions and accountability for the unborn. It displays how important the mother is to the life and well-being of the growing fetus and detriments unborn experiences through the thoughts and feelings due to dependency. Sociology is the outside factors looking in based on the relevance of others interpretation on decision and belief. The rights need a voice as sociology analyst may protrude those that can't speak for themselves such as the "unborn" need an advocate. The pressure of expectation and judgement weight can narrate the importance of the mother's well-being in several aspects I will be discussing. Lastly Law, this discipline has stipulations and rules around the rights of those that are considered fetuses versus the mother's right for decision. It guides the mother to doing right by the law and allows intervene between the eyes of the law on what's right and wrong.

These disciplines will help my interdisciplinary approach by not just factoring the importance of one over the other but value of life in general. The dependency on each other in order to be able to seek insight into both the effect this has on the unborn and the mother.

This relates to my major because it brings out bias thoughts and emotions towards how things are viewed in the world today. I am interested in child development but have not chosen the career I want to proceed in. My interest relies on a woman's health but also adolescent children which streams my path to caring for those I can counsel that need help whether that's a pregnant stressed mother or a child in the foster care system. I believe I want to be a psychologist or some sort of adolescent director in my career path and this is the perfect topic for me to be able to gain insight.

### **Key Terms:**

This paper discusses the insight of Psychology, Sociology, and Law. Psychology can be defined as the human mind that affects behavior in given situations. Sociology is defined as the study of social problems that develop through society. Finally, law defines rules implemented in place for protection of human rights and implementing structure of discipline for actions.

### **Three Paragraphs on disciplinary findings:**

Psychology discipline has studied through their lens this subject focusing on the mindset that woman can be in that affects the developing fetus. In the study the strongest concept that is understood is the outside determines the inside. A simple negative thought can be detrimental to the unborn child. The rights of a woman in Psychology aspect are more important because if not it can harm the unborn in several ways that I will mention in this paper. "We can no longer afford to ignore the influences, both internal and external, which affect the growing child in its mother's womb" (Levinson, 1993, p. 471). It is the mother's duty to provide nutrition, light

thoughts, great intentions, and a healthy spirit when carrying a child. The child in return grows to be healthy and well balanced once the decision of the mother is to accept what is happening to her own body. At the time of conception, it rearranges the life of the mother and makes her a key role of importance to support the fetus that is depending on her for nine months. Conception starts not when a woman first knows but when the egg and sperm meet starting the time of growth. “The central role of that the mother has to play in ensuring her child’s psychological and physical health, the modern mother is often hampered by conflicts, confusions and, worst of all ambivalence-torn between her desire to be a mother and her need to have a career and be a wage-earner” (Levinson, 1993, p. 472). An unborn life is a responsibility and weighs heavy on life decisions that waiver towards what a woman goal is and can it be reached with the presence of being a mother.

Secondly, the discipline of sociology has done valid research on this topic with the focus of development and human society. “In social discourses of motherhood, altruism is an essential characteristic of woman and motherhood is the essential purpose” (Cherry, 2015 p.60). Society views motherhood as desired, wanted responsibility to care for the child, and the requirement for the need of the unborn first. The neglected factor is the mother, her importance and dignity are questioned when that is not her mental state due to several abiding reasonings which is viewed abnormal. “Instead of viewing maternal behavior that are harmful or fatal to a fetus as criminal, we should view them as a function of the myriad social and economic deprivations suffer by some women” (cherry, 2015 p.8). If we take a second to see how others stand and come together to express their opinion on abortion, it can make one fearful. The thoughts of others’ views on a person can be detrimental mentally to what the right decision can be. The pro-lifer individual may view it as a sin or build a confusion on not wanting to be thankful for being able to create a

life with their body. Since sociology deals with the development of society the conflict includes not the environment but also the fetus or unborn child. The pressure for the mother on supplies, shelter, and support from the outside world, friends, family, spouse must be accessible to be able to raise a healthy life for a dependable child. The economy over the years has increased in cost which also is viewed as a hardship for a mother when balancing a traumatic pregnancy, healthy food intake, childcare expense, and essentials. The other aspect we can investigate is the amount of reliance the woman will have on the government for assistance increasing the expense of cost to support not just the woman but the unborn child.

Lastly, the discipline of Law has had trials on the rights of woman over decades when pregnant or not pregnant. The Law included the constitutional rights and amendments to be followed by each person with expectations. “A “person” within the meaning of the Constitution, it did recognize the fetus had protectable interest beyond the Constitution.” (Reitman, 2002, p. 287). Not including the word, “fetus” has drawn several determinations on when and if a fetus is a person or are they only protected once born. *Roe v Wade* has played a crucial tactic in woman’s rights which held the right to privacy in the constitution which should not deviate from this law once pregnant. “This creates conflict between a woman’s right to a personal autonomy against the fetus rights to physical integrity and the states interest in such integrity for the protection of potential human life.” (Reitman, 2002, p. 270) The law has defined a woman with the right to choose what is best for her body but also inquires when abortion is acceptable and under what circumstances. With this implemented it leaves the woman with less rights than the fetus since abortion needs to have probable cause. The conflicts in each discipline are between psychology that woman need to have the right to determine what suits their lifestyle best because the unborn needs to grow in a condition that is healthy. Sociology takes the view of the people

and the world's development, creating the vision of why unborn life is more important placing the woman as just a carrier that should want to provide for the innocent. The Law is in between on the approach of the rights of woman and unborn. With laws set in place due to *Roe v. Wade* that allows woman the right to her own body it is placed with stipulations. The stipulations can be focused primarily of the stage of the unborn child, and the health of the mother. “If *Roe* recognized state interest in the viable fetus, they argued, then courts should insist pregnant women accept medical advice intended to protect their pregnancies.” (Kluchin, 2022)

### **Common Grounds:**

In the three chosen disciplines the common ground displayed with interdisciplinary approach has been proven. In all three disciplines, psychology, sociology, and law perspective the health of the child and the mother. With each acknowledging the fetus is dependent on the mother and the main source of nutrition and well-being can come from only the carrier. The opinion of others within the psychology and sociology light can be detrimental to the mother and decision making when it comes to abortion but not the final factor for decision. With these common grounds shared helped me be able to create findings on how differences of opinion have the “what if” factors that can alter the decision of importance in each discipline. I found that even though one focus may be more important, the importance relies on not just one, the mother or the unborn but both.

### **Identifying conflicts:**

The conflicts I gathered between the disciplines are stages of life in all three. In the discipline of psychology the stages are considered before 12 weeks of pregnancy and in

sociology at the time of conception the unborn is alive. Another conflicted approach is the law and psychology which is the anatomy of the woman's body. With this conflict the determination on when the anatomy of a women is no longer her decision for the health of the unborn. "Dozens of American women were compelled to undergo court ordered Caesarean sections at the end of the 20th century" (Kluchin, 2022)

## **Chapter 12: Understanding**

In order to gain a better understand of the topic is to be able to redefine the topic and title.

"Importance" and "Rights" within each discipline each meant something different but to be able to decipher is human or non-human. The understanding being broader applies to the insight of when is a unborn a human to gain the rights as those that walk to earth which is the main focus and to understand the life of a fetus is how importance is defined.

### **Can Forced births cause an Economic decline?**

In order to construct a more comprehensive understanding the approach can be changed from importance to the trend of abortions in the past years and outcome it has had on woman.

Following the path of children of who are in foster care or families using the government for assistance. Introducing Economic discipline could help get an overall picture more than just the rights, but successful family outcomes and child welfare can be introduced. This will help gain a stronger understanding of why the importance of one over another may be valid.

### **Conclusion:**

**In conclusion, the rights of all should not be abonded in any situation because we breath the same air and own a social. Importance is not just subject to those that cant speak or fend for themselves but anything that deals with the life of another. A fetus is not**



considered viable until 22- 26 weeks to be able to live without the mother's nutrition and vitals. In order to care for an unborn child, the mother must be mentally willing first, financially stable or consist with work, and accepting of the major changes. Without these three things mentioned it is not healthy for the child or mother, which is why the mother's right on decision is a crucial factor. Once the unborn is able to live without the mother is when the rights of the unborn should be considered because abortion is painful for the unborn, and also foster care is mentally destroying to children once they are given life by the mother that did not want them but was forced from society, law, or mental obligation.

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