

Issues in Genetic Testing

Issues and Impacts

The issues in Genetic testing lie within the concepts of ethical, legal and social values. Initiating from clinical and analytical misconducts in testing and ranges up to the facts of carrying potential genetic differences and revealing of genetic information for potentially affected families.

Potential ethical invalidity considers the part of direct consumer participation in the testing process as in, several companies, which are not certified or licensed for medical conducts, offer genetic tests to the consumers without involving their physicians. These companies provide wrong results of genetic testing as well as several times the company also reveal the genetic information to others. Several states have similar unethical medical centres and incurred distinct rules for these centres.

The negative impacts are variable with renowned sources of risk measures, which include,

Psychological impacts

This is a fact that each and every individual has distinct insights for their genetic test results. The health care centres have the responsibility of providing a better judgement to the facts of helping the patients understand their results related to their own health but the risks arise while interventions or follow up that includes potential risks to his/her family (Botkin *et al.*, 2015).

Societal values

Personal responsibilities, personal choices, genetic determinism/fate and diseases are the fundamental factors or can be counted as risks of losing societal values of a person due to personal genetic testing results. In one hand it might lead to a change in lifestyle or activities for betterment or a change in behavioural aspects for reducing the risk of genetic disease severity.

References

Botkin, J. R., Belmont, J. W., Berg, J. S., Berkman, B. E., Bombard, Y., Holm, I. A., ... & Wilfond, B. S. (2015). Points to consider: ethical, legal, and psychosocial implications of genetic testing in children and adolescents. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*, 97(1), 6-21.