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The Vice That is Eugenics

The term eugenics is used to refer to the practice of maintaining the animal species that have “good” genetics. The practice can involve negative eugenics whereby the animals with perceived negative traits are killed or prevented from breeding while the animals with positive genetic traits are bred freely to increase their numbers. Most supporters of the practices derived the school of thought from the theory of Darwinian Theory. The Darwinian Theory was able to spin into existence the thought of having social Darwinism. This meant that the most adapted animals are able to continue their genetic qualities since they were the most suitable especially after surviving.

Mendel introduced the notion of passage of genes from one generation to another. The traits of the fruit flies he worked with were able to pick dominant genes from one of the parents or each of the parents. This means the offspring can be better than the parents’ genetic traits, especially if two dominant traits come together. “Biologically the species is the accumulation of the experiments of all its successful individuals since the beginning” said H.G Wells. Therefore, eugenics is an artificial form of selection, which imposes moral questions.

Eugenics is a perfect way to look at the world but not practical or beneficial at all. The rules of social Darwinism predict that the society maintains the characteristics that are most desirable from a species in order for them to survive. However, Francis Galton says, “Society would be very dull, if every man resembled the highly estimable Marcus Aurelius or Adam Bede”. The principle of process must always take place for those who are regarded as less worthy by other peers amongst their species. According to Galton a race nurtured through eugenic would be “less foolish, less frivolous, less excitable and politically more provident than low.”

If Mendel’s research is taken into principle, it is possible to see that the physical trait can be recessive. Therefore, you cannot make a perfect human being. Even Theodore Roosevelt was receptive to the news of eugenics he said that, if a farmer permits the unlimited breeding of unwanted stock it would be non-beneficial for the farmer. Though the farmer relies mostly on the plant breeding to promote its health with humans it could be a bit different. The people achieve certain successes in their lives due to the challenges they faced and the mistakes made.

The natural selection also meant that the environmental factors influenced the survival of the species. Therefore, the artificial eugenics would only be able to assist adaptation up to a certain point. However, in natural selection, the adaptation is dynamic. A farmer, who breeds the best drought resistant crops, would forget to make the same crops flood resistant but nature would cater for all possibilities. According to Galton “Nothing endures; nothing is precise and certain (except the mind of a pedant).”

The school system, for example, does not practice eugenics, even though we have dropouts, who become trendsetters in economy or politics. The use of eugenics from the human perspective is quite

narrow-minded. The inductive logic of eugenics make it less rewarding to the society since each person can give to the society according to their capabilities though mostly the demands will be designed to what people expect.

The writer Margaret Sangers says, "the parents of the world are given control over their reproductive faculties... the education for parenthood must be based upon the needs and demands of the people themselves". If we force our own needs and demands upon an individual, we are likely to pass through the fears and poor traits we have to them. The NAZI, for example, practiced eugenics passed down to the generation, which even went further to practice euthanasia amongst the Jew patients. Their practices aimed at reducing the Jews and this led to holocausts and ethnic cleansings.

We need solutions that spring up from amongst us spontaneously and we will feel the effect of this when the patchy and tiring efforts of the human population is beating down on us. We teach children constantly on what to do and most of the children end up doing the opposite. To find a solution we do not need to enforce genes or our teachings to the children. If we practice eugenics, we can develop a bunch of able-bodied men ready to serve their own ends.