**Title**: **Socio-legal dimensions of DNA paternity testing in India**

Reviewer’s Comments:

1. The paper does address issues relevant to the fields of bioethics and medical ethics in the developing countries and could influence practice and policy.
2. There are some articles written on DNA testing in paternity cases but they are from a legal perspective. There is a PhD thesis which looks at the social aspects of the same (<https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/209004/14/14_chapter%207.pdf)>. There is limited literature on the social costs/ repercussions of the case law on the use of DNA in paternity cases and hence is a pertinent and relevant addition to the same.
3. The article discusses the case law and there are few cases on the same, hence most of the articles dealing with the subject refer to the same cases. From a review of the literature, the article is original and not plagiarized.
4. The concluding paragraph of the judgment referred to in the article, *Dipanwita Roy vs* *Ronobroto Roy*, displaces the presumption under Section 112 in its concluding paragraph. This should be mentioned as it is an important omission in the article. The author could also include the names of the cases with citations that are referred in the article. Another issue which may or may not be addressed is literature on the conclusiveness of DNA evidence. The development of the legal discourse on DNA is unquestioning regards the definitiveness of the tests which ignores the literature that proves that the same is susceptible to fallibility and at times inconclusive.
5. The author should include the names of the cases referred to in the article. Apart from the same, there is an article on the risk of escalation in domestic violence due to the tests (<https://www.dailyo.in/politics/increasing-the-risk-of-domestic-violence/story/1/423.html)>. Literature on domestic violence indicates that suspicion of adultery is one of the proclaimed causes of domestic violence. Since the article deals with the social repercussions of DNA tests, the author could explore this issue further in the article.   
     
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Editor’s comments;

1. The sex determination debate that started in India, and led to the enactment of first laws prohibiting the disclosure of sex of foetus (except sex linked diseases) in 1989 in Maharashtra and Goa, focused a lot on the genetic labs and other labs where the simple tests for detection of sex from the amniotic fluid and chorion villi biopsy. In fact, the campaign of that time did not talk about ultrasound machines but amniocentesis. So, it is surprising to know that there is very little information on the number of laboratories etc is available.  
     
   2. In addition, on the one hand the paper says that the media reported "mushrooming of DNA laboratories in Gujarat" in 2016, and on the other hand it is able to find a list of only eight commercial laboratories. This is not convincing. While the paper does not need the full long list of laboratories doing the DNA testing, if the importance of the subject matter is argued in terms of expansion of number of laboratories and tests, then some estimation of number is needed. If the estimation is not possible, the eight names may be removed as that contradicts the point made.  
     
   3. There are genetic laboratories doing DNA testing in the public as well as private / commercial sector. The submission has mentioned only the commercial laboratories. Aren't the social-legal dimensions of the DNA testing similar in both types of laboratories? If not, what are the crucial differences.  
     
   4. I request the author to explore the standards set for registration under the central Clinical Establishment Act for laboratories, and whether there is any standard for the genetic/DNA laboratories in them. The Author should also explore the NABL (under the Dept of science and technology) standards and accreditation of the laboratories in India (a few of the eight of DNA laboratories listed in the paper claim the accreditation of the NABL and thus recognition by the Gov of India, and each one also provides huge number of the DNA tests done). If both of them have not set any standard for the genetic laboratories, then the negative finding may be mentioned.

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