**Why Study Medical Ethics**

Zika virus is a mosquito-transmitted infection, that that has affected millions of people in the tropical regions of America. Its effect is, however, limited and the only concern is for pregnant women who may be infected. Some cases of sexual transmission of the virus have also been reported, and this widens the gap of risk to men with unborn babies. The effect of Zika virus on infants is microcephaly, a case of unusual small heads and damaged brains. Doctors’ reports confirmed that the virus crosses the placenta and attacks the fetuses’ nerve cells, including some of the cells that attack the brain. It is not definite that a Zika virus infection means brain damage. 1 in 100 infections in Brazil had microcephaly, and around 15 percent of the cases of microcephaly, the small head isn’t accompanied by brain damage.

Following an outbreak of Zika virus in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Family Planning Association called for a legal revisit of Pro-Life laws in a move to prevent the birth of babies with microcephaly. Should the babies be screened for microcephaly and if yes, aborted or should the baby, whether with microcephaly or not, be left to grow to birth and further? First, microcephaly leads to development delay, intellectual retard, and hearing loss. On the other side, the Pro-Life position is a law in Trinidad and Tobago, and upholding it is a state responsibility. Further, the Code of Ethics of the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago tells doctors not to perform an abortion unless the physical and mental well-being of the mother is at risk (Mcneil, 2016).

Abortion is a serious issue, and so are the effects of microcephaly. Faced with this conditions, the government will need to do a deeper research on the impact of the disease on the population at that time and the possibility of treatment or containment. The Zika virus effect on infants has been confirmed and treatment lags behind in containing the virus. However, giving room for abortion may have even more consequences and lead to more deaths of infants. Legally, Zika virus has no effect on the health of the mother, so the Trinidad and Tobago law holds its position effectively. Why compromise it?

**References**

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