




OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Regulation of Biotechnology: Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications

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Received: 2023-05-10

Revised: 2023-06-13

Accepted: 2023-06-18

Published: 2023-07-01


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While the study acknowledges its qualitative nature and sample size as a limitation, a more thorough discussion of potential biases in data collection and analysis, as well as strategies employed to mitigate these biases, would add depth to the research.

The Ethical Implications theme is rich with data; however, the discussion could be deepened by exploring the nuances and conflicts within each sub-category, such as the tensions between privacy and public health benefits in genetic testing.

Given the global nature of biotechnology, a more detailed exploration of the role of international cooperation in harmonizing regulatory approaches would add value to the discussion on legal implications.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The methodology, particularly the criteria for participant selection and the process of achieving theoretical saturation, could be elaborated. Providing more detail on the participant selection process could enhance the study's transparency and reproducibility.

The paper could benefit from a more detailed description of the thematic analysis process. Specifically, elaborating on how themes were derived from the data could strengthen the reliability of the findings.

The Legal Implications section would benefit from a comparative analysis of existing regulatory frameworks across different jurisdictions. Highlighting specific examples where regulatory frameworks have successfully balanced innovation with public safety could provide practical insights for policy development.

Given the rapid advancement in biotechnology, the inclusion of recent developments and their implications for regulation could make the findings more relevant and timely.

While Social Implications discuss public perception and trust, further elaboration on methods for engaging the public in regulatory discussions could provide valuable guidance for policymakers.

The impact of the digital divide on public engagement in biotechnology discussions is mentioned but not thoroughly explored. A deeper analysis of how this divide affects stakeholder participation and how it can be addressed would enhance the study's relevance.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.