

[HOME](#) / [NEWS](#) / [INDIA](#)

New Assisted Reproductive Technology regulations push up cost of treatment, limit conception opportunities

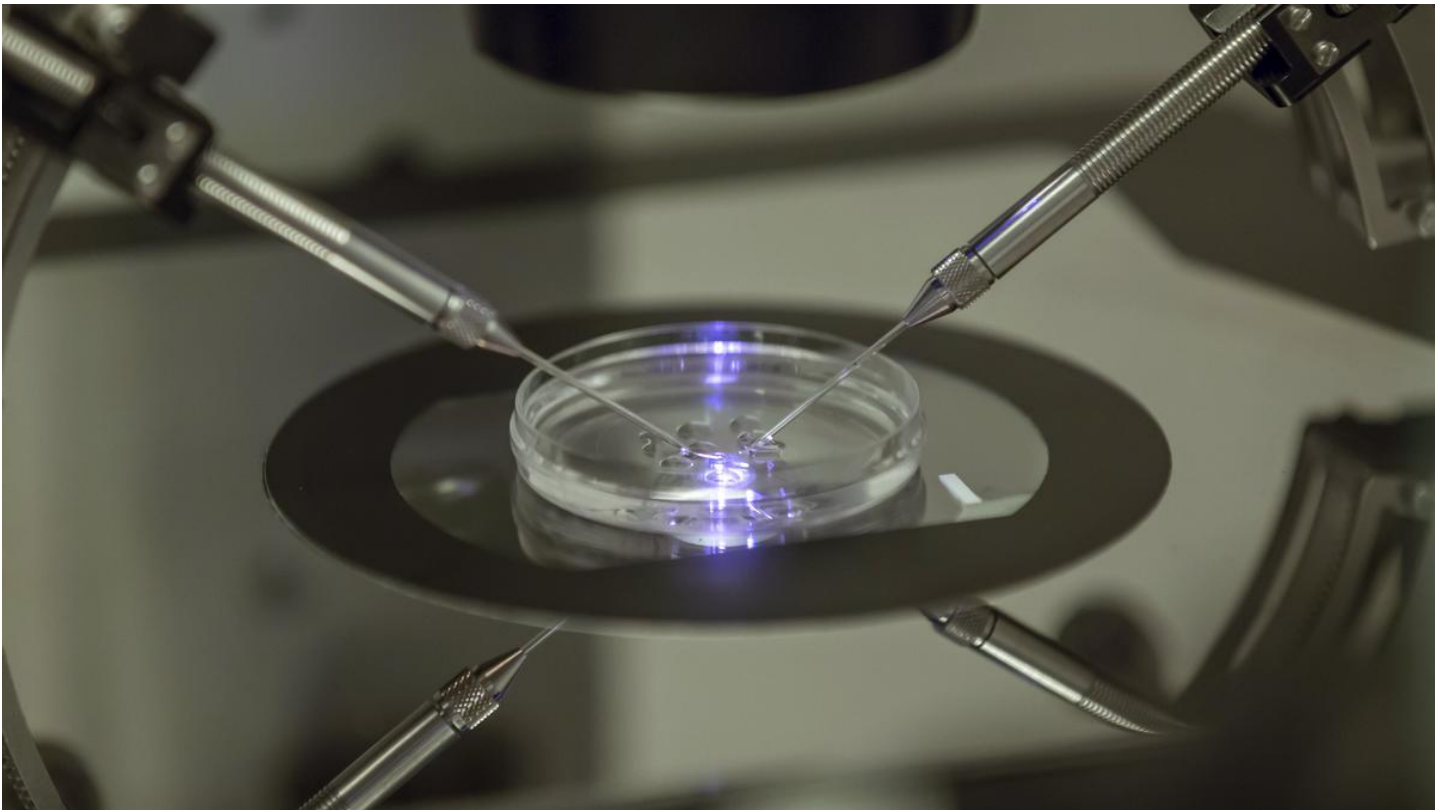
Experts say the restrictions significantly limit the opportunities for ART couples to find suitable donors and could also increase costs as most women require more than one donor cycle to conceive

June 24, 2023 08:36 pm | Updated 11:43 pm IST - NEW DELHI



BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

[COMMENTS](#)[SHARE](#)[!\[\]\(cf531ed27e91483460120fcc057b3901_img.jpg\) READ LATER](#)



The provision states that an oocyte donor should be an ever-married (persons who have been married at least once in their lives) woman having at least one living child of her own (minimum three years of age). She can donate oocyte only once in her lifetime and not more than seven oocytes can be retrieved. Also, an ART bank cannot supply gamete (reproductive cell) of a single donor to more than one commissioning couple (couple seeking services). Additionally, parties seeking ART services will be required to provide insurance coverage in the favour of the oocyte donor (for any loss, damage, or death of the donor). A clinic is prohibited from offering to provide a child of pre-determined sex. Also checking for genetic diseases before the embryo implantation is needed.

While welcoming the safety measures and transparency the new provisions bring, Archana Dhawan Bajaj, gynaecologist, Nurture IVF said that the restrictions significantly limit the opportunities for ART couples to find suitable donors.

India, much like the rest of the world, is facing a dip in fertility rates and further limiting available donors is likely to bring in more challenges, experts say.

Adds Dr. Baijai, “The demand will exceed the supply, leading to increased costs for ART



cycles needed for successful conception is difficult. On average, the best outcomes are

observed when couples undergo back-to-back cycles. Most individuals require more than one cycle to conceive, often needing two to three cycles for a higher chance of success.”

Overall, the new ART laws restricting the number of donation attempts “have the potential to increase costs and create challenges for couples relying on assisted reproductive techniques,” she said.

Prachi Benara, consultant, Birla Fertility and IVF, too said that costs which previously hovered around a few lakhs depending on the nature of technology needed have been pushed up 1.5 times.

Stating that the challenges aren’t huge for healthcare providers in the organised sector, Shobhit Agarwal, CEO of Nova IVF and Fertility, noted that the provisions will hit the unregulated sector and untrained persons exploiting donors and couples.

“A regulation like this is a big step towards preventing congenital abnormalities and in the long run will help the community and eliminate exploitation of donors. However, for couples who need more donor cycles, the cost has certainly gone up in terms of insurance and other legal formalities. A woman may need more than one ART cycle to have a positive result. Seven oocytes may not be enough to produce a viable embryo for a successful pregnancy,” he said.



Get Curated Updates

Sign up for our free newsletters to get in-depth analyses

