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GM-No’s: Consequences of Creation

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Irish playwright, George Bernard Shaw once stated: “Science never solves a problem without creating ten more.” His words, nearly a century old, are just as relevant today. As society continues to advance, various scientific fields surpass the boundaries of the human imagination in order to meet obvious needs; however, it is not without consequence. Every creation, every innovation, every solution, can ultimately uncover another problem. Despite advancements and continued innovation, human need for control and greed forces ingenuity to exceed the parameters of what is acceptable on an ethical level. This argument becomes exceedingly clear in the case of experimentation with genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Genetically modified organisms are ultimately a hindrance to humanity and continued experimentation is far beyond the limits of ethics due to the unknown consumption effects.

While the problems associated with consuming GMOs is not limited to personal interests, it is the predominate reason for this inquiry research. For the purpose of this research project, genetically modified organisms, specifically food, are defined as organisms that “introduce bioengineering and genetic manipulation through the enhancement of desired traits such as increased resistance to herbicides or improved nutritional content” (Whitman).The effects of GMOs will pose both health and environment concerns for modern society; however, my personal interests stem from the health consequences. As a student in college, I was exposed to research through my Environmental Science course on pesticide usage and how these chemical compounds had not only leached into the water system, but into dairy and meat supplies. Because the effects were unknown, but most likely damaging to the human body, I found myself becoming hyper-aware of what I put into my body. Because of that concern, it is my belief that scientific practices often go beyond what is necessary for survival due to greed and a need to control life. Through this research process, I will attempt to answer whether or not scientific advancement has ultimately gone beyond necessity to push the limits of ethical experimentation through the lens of the dangers associated with consuming GMOs and what impact the risks will have on society.