

國立高雄海洋科技大學 98 學年度碩士入學考試
海洋環境工程研究所—英文試題

Please write a summary with your feedback after reading from the text “Too Old to Be Pregnant?”

Too Old to Be Pregnant?

More and more women are turning to medical science to become mothers. Advances in reproductive technologies have made it increasingly possible for women in their 40s and 50s to give birth. Even women who are no longer fertile can use the eggs of younger donors. In 2002, the National Center for Health Statistics in the United States reported 263 births among women 50 and older, a ten-percent increase from the previous year. By comparison, the total number of babies born in the United States in 2002 was 4,021,726. This trend is raising a number of medical and ethical questions. Is there a point when a woman is too old to have a baby? We think there is.

In 2005, a 66-year-old Romanian woman gave birth to a healthy baby girl. At that time, Adriana Iliescu was the world's oldest known mother. It wasn't easy. She had to undergo nine years of fertility treatment in order to force her body to produce eggs. Then she was artificially inseminated with sperm from an anonymous donor. Ms. Iliescu, a retired university professor and the author of several children's books, is very optimistic about her future as a mother. She says that the people in her family are very long-lived, so she expects to be able to raise her daughter to adulthood without a problem. Ms. Iliescu is not the only woman to conceive a child after the age of 60.

Here is a list of some of the world's oldest mothers.

Rajo Devi, an Indian woman is thought to have become the world's oldest mother at the age of 70 following fertility treatment. She gave birth to a baby girl on November 28, 2008 taking over the title of world's oldest mother from a 67-year-old Spanish woman who had twins in 2006. For the moment, Rajo Devi is the oldest known mother on earth.

Maria del Carmen Bousada de Lara, 67, in 2006, gave birth to twin sons at a hospital in Barcelona, Spain. Her decision to become a mother so late in life was branded "*selfish and irresponsible*" by her family. Less than a year later, she was diagnosed with cancer.

Janise Wulf, a 62-year-old old great-grandmother from Redding, California gave birth to her 12th child in 2006. Wulf's oldest child at the time was 40. She also had 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Patricia Rashbrook, 62, of Lewes, East Sussex, gave birth to her son JJ in 2006. She already had three children, 26, 22 and 18, from her first marriage, but her second husband became a father from the first time.

Papathiammal Subramaniam, 64, gave birth to a test tube baby in India in 2004, becoming one of the world's oldest first-time mothers. She went through menopause around 20 years before, so doctors used the donated egg of a 30-year-old relative with the husband's sperm.

Satyabhama Mahapatra, from Nayagarh, Orissa, India, a 65-year-old Indian woman gave birth to a son in 2003. Schoolteacher Satyabhama Mahapatra was impregnated with an egg from her 26-year-old niece. The egg had been fertilized by Mrs. Mahapatra's husband using in-vitro fertilization. In this procedure, egg and sperm are combined in a laboratory. As a result, the couple, who had been married for 50 years, was able to have their first child.

Liz Buttle, of Wales, had a baby aged 61 in 1997. At the time she already had a 41-year-old daughter, Belinda, and three grandchildren.

Rosanna Della Corte, 62, of Canino, Italy gave birth to a son named Riccardo in 1994. He was born out of grief caused when her first-born, also called Riccardo, died aged 17 in a motorbike accident.

While it is not difficult to understand the job that these people must feel about the birth of their long-awaited offspring, one has to wonder about children raised by elderly parents. It is true that unusual for men to become fathers late in life. However, until now, their children had at least one parent of the normal age for childrearing.

國立高雄海洋科技大學
海洋環境工程研究所—英文試題答案紙