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*by JJ*

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### **Birth Control**

Margaret Sanger championed birth control and worked throughout her life to ensure women could control themselves from unwanted pregnancies. I have learned that Sanger and the eugenic movement were based on her experiences in the past. Sanger was eager and determined to discover birth control pills because her mother died fifty years from tuberculosis. Also, Sanger's mother had eleven children and seven miscarriages in her life (American Experience). Sanger was so demoralized by her mother's death to the extent of blaming her father. American Experience states that Margaret, while facing her father in her mother's coffin, screamed that he is the one that caused her mother's death because of having many kids. Eugenic movement is societal progress that is absorbed in improving the hereditary makeup of the human population by disposing of the unfortunate qualities presented by individuals. This movement was intended to make American individuals healthier by providing them the right to select on their parenthood.

Sanger concentrated on the minorities and mentally disabled women since she needed to certify that the children born were healthy because they are born with healthy mothers hence eradicating the unhealthy genes (Sanger). Therefore, Sanger did not regard the disabled and mentally disabled women as healthy and thus could not take care of children well. The minority also were poor and unable to take care of children. Not using this in sociology is considered discriminative and racist and limited individuals' abilities to have children.

Margaret needed to ensure the minority have a chance to decide on the number of children they want to have and at what time. Birth control would make them make choices themselves and not what society wants. For instance, since her mother had eleven children and seven miscarriages, it made her weak Healthwise because she did not control the number of children. Sanger did not want the minority to face the same challenge hence deciding to give today's minority population the authority to decide on having children.

Sanger and the other scientist are regarded as leaders of social movements because they are initiators of the birth control pill. Also, they can be viewed as leaders because they promoted sexual liberty and autonomy, and women had authority over their parenthood.

I think the article has both positive and negative concepts altogether, but the positive outdo the negative. For instance, arguing based on society's morals, birth pills have adverse effects on social life because many people, especially young adolescents, utilize the pills, which were not intended for them. On the other hand, the article focused on explaining against the pill based on religion and promiscuousness. The arguments that women are utilizing the pills to be promiscuous, disobeying religion, and women not wanting to have children is not well because it was created to give women power over their children and choose to parenthood. There is a substantial connection between the anti-pill and anti-abortion campaigns that happened in 2019. When a woman needed to do an abortion in 2019, they were disrespected and seen as worthless. These issues deny women their right to sexuality and reproduction because it limits their authority in deciding when to have babies and when they can be parents. The article argues that college students are the highest population taking the pill, and high school students have also started using it (American Experience). It is a measure of not wanting to be parents at the time, the same as abortion because the woman does not wish for a child.

Before the pills, women were having more babies because they did not have limitations on the number of kids. For instance, they were informed to go and get their husbands in college, and the majority went to look for a husband in college. Also, they could become pregnant within seven months of marriage and have many kids, sometimes ten or more. Women did not have the authority to control the number of children, which could immensely affect their health. Other families were poor and could not afford to feed and care for their many children well. After the pill, women had authority over reproducing, making them sexually free the same as men. They did not have to be concerned with getting pregnant while having sex. The pill has changed women and families because women started to work and could provide for their families.

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