



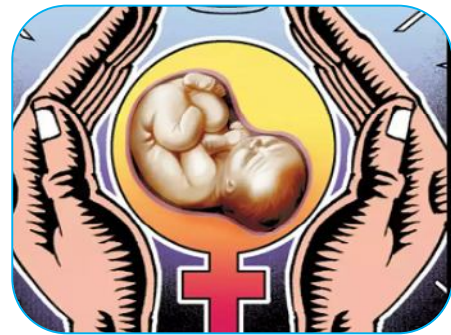
FEMALE FETICIDE AND INFANTICIDE: A SERIOUS CHALLENGE FOR THE SOCIETY

Mallavva Govindappa Jalaraddi

**Assistant Professor , Government First Grade Collage ,
For women Dharwad.**

ABSTRACT

In ancient India, the practice of feticide and female infanticide were prevalent in some households, primarily in rural communities. The main reason being the individuals reinforced the viewpoint that having male children will render an important contribution in promoting well-being and good will of their families. Provided they are given opportunities. Female feticide is a conscious and deliberate act of aborting a fetus since it is a female. Female features are specifically aborted subsequently. Around 10 lakhs girls are missing from the Indian population. The census of the government of India has uncovered a sharp decrease in the sex proportion of children in the 0-6 group in the



10 years since the last statistics (from 945 to 927 female per 1000 male) female feticide not only bring about a declining girl population. Increasing awareness of the problem has led to various campaigns by journalist and celebrities to combat evil practice of female feticide. Amir Khan devoted the first episode "Daughters Are Precious" of his show satyamev Jayate to create awareness on this widespread practice. Therefore among all components related to the empowerment of girls and women which need consideration, education is the most significant component to raise the status of girls in the society.

KEYWORDS: sex ratio, feticide, abortion, infanticide.

INTRODUCTION

Female feticide is the process of finding out the sex of the fetus and undergoing abortion if it is a girl.

Although it is illegal, many people continue to practice it. Besides this, there are some communities which practice female infanticide- the practice of killing the girl child once she is born. This fact is highlighted by the findings of census 2001 which show that there are only 937 women in this country for every 1000 men census (2011) data showed a significant declining trend in the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) calculated as number of girls for every 1000 boys between age group of 0-6 years. With an all time high of 1000 in 1961 from 976 in 2011. This decline in sex ratio means that we are not just depriving girls of human rights.

In India a strong fondness for sons over daughter. People desire smaller families with comparatively greater sons by abuse medical technologies, it is one of the main motives for declining sex ratio.

Female feticide is the procedure of abortion terminates female fetus from the womb of the mother before taking birth after sex recognition tests like an ultrasound scan. Female feticide and even any sex recognition test are illegal in India.

Objectives of the study:

- To review the factors leading to female foeticide and female infanticide in India.
- To review the perception and attitude of people towards female foeticide and female infanticide.
- To review the awareness level of people regarding female foeticide.
- To review the legislative measures taken to combat female foeticide and female infanticide.

METHODOLOGY:

The present study entirely depends on secondary data. The secondary data are those data which have already been passed through the statistical process. The research adopted the secondary data.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

1. Aishwarya (2010), carried out the study in selected Bikaner Panchayat Samati of Bikaner district of Rajasthan to assess the awareness. About female feticide among rural and urban women. According to finding of the study (55%) rural women and 70% urban women had medium level awareness about female feticide. Further outcomes of the study demonstrated that mass media exposure and high socio economic status had positive and significant association with awareness about female feticide among rural and urban women.
2. Khatun (2011), considered that female feticide has become a social danger of global importance in the time of ultrasound innovation and industrialist advancement and tries to focus on the rationale behind the feticide and the consequences of their practice on the Indian Society.
3. Sindhu (2014), stated that the immediate cause for the practice of female feticide is that daughters are perceived as financial and social burden to the family because of few factors like such as dowry system and worry about getting her married.
4. Srivastava (2014), suggested that the prohibition of sex-determination test, though an essential and desperately required stop, but is not the ultimate solution to the problem. In the long run, social prejudices against women have to be address by improving her status in the family and community.

Understanding the meaning of female foeticide and female infanticide:

Female feticide and female infanticide female foeticide is aborting the female child in the mother's womb. While female infanticide is killing a baby girl after she is being born. The act of killing the female child after her birth has been prevailing in our society for many years. However, female foeticide is the inheritance and commitment of the advancement made by the medical science. Amniocentesis was introduced in 1975 with identify fetal anomalies yet it before long started to be utilized for deciding the sex of the child. Ultrasound scanning, being a non-intrusive strategy, immediately gained popularity and is now available in some of the most remote rural areas. Both techniques are now being utilized for sex assurance with the goal of early termination if the baby ends up being female. With the advancement of privatization and commercialization, the utilization of pre-natal diagnostic technologies is growing into a flourishing business in India. This is principally with the end goal of sex assurance specific early termination of the female fetus. The abuse of technology simply reinforces the secondary status given to girl children in such a way that they are separated out given to girl children in such a way that they are separated to even before they are born. Compare to infanticide, foeticide is likely a more acceptable means for arranging off the undesirable girl children. Infanticide can be a clearly cruel practice while foeticide that is done by experts that utilizes logical methods, abilities, scientific techniques and skill and reduces the guilt factor associated with the entire exercise.

Female Foeticide is a violation of an unborn girl child. It likewise has implication on the health of the mother. It affects status of women and has serious ecological and demographical ramification. It is a grave issue that influences the life and soundness of society. And yet the problem of female foeticide and female infanticide has got little consideration.

Census due to female feticide:

Female feticide has been in practice for periods especially for the families who have a preference only male child, several religious social, financial and emotional are the reason for female feticide, Therefore this time has been changed now much however, many reasons and beliefs are ongoing in some families some of the main reasons for female feticide are:

- Generally parents don't want a girl baby because they have to give a big amount as a dowry at daughters marriage.
- There is a faith that girls are always consumer and boys are the only producer Thus parents understand that son will earn money for the whole life and care their parents however girls will get married a day and will have a separate family.
- There is a belief that the son will carry the name of the family in future however the girl has to carry the husband's family.
- This is a prestige issue in Society for parent and grandparent to have a boy baby in the family besides having a daughter.
- This is a stress in the new bride of the family to give birth to a male child so she is enforced to go for sex recognition and abort if girl baby.
- Illiteracy, insecurity and poverty of people in society are also major reasons for girl baby burden.
- Science and Technological advancement and utilities have made this very easy taste for parents.
- Permanent Cancellation of license should be done if it is going on in medical practice.
- Marketing of medical tools specifically for illegal sex determination and abortion should be a bane.
- Parents must be fined who want to kill their girl baby.
- Campaigns and seminars should be regularly help to aware of young couples.
- Women should be aware so that they can be more attentive to their rights.

Impact of female feticide on the sex ratio:

Sex ratio denotes the ratio of females to males in a specific region. Many practices like female feticide and female infanticide (killing a baby girl after her birth) have had a country influence on the sex ratio. Thus it rises and promotes many social evils.

As per the decennial Indian census, sex ratio of India is 107.48 in 2019. Therefore India has 930 females per 1000 males 80, India has 48.20% female population compare to 51.80% male population.

Ways to prevent female feticide:

It is very clear by now that female feticide is a crime and a great social disaster. After identifying the reasons behind this unethical practice, we must strive to eradicate it completely. Firstly sex determination is a great cause for this crime. Thus the determination of the sex of the fetus must be made illegal. Moreover, stringent measures must be taken to ensure they are followed correctly.

Furthermore, the government must ban the easy availability of the medical equipment one needs for sex determination and abortion. They must jail those found guilty of practicing this crime must and government must terminate their license. Moreover, the parents who aim to do it must be penalized heavily. Above all, people must be made aware of this unethical practice at all arch. We must empower our young women and girls to practice their right diligently.

The ministry of health and family welfare has adopted a multi pronged strategy to check female feticide which includes legislative measures, awareness generation as well as program for social economy empowerment of women.

The steps taken by the government to prevent female feticide under the pre concept and pre natal Diagnostic Techniques (prohibition of sex selection) Act 1994, PC and PNDT Act include following

- Reconstitution of statutory bodies under the act and regular meetings of the Central Supervise Board, State Supervisory Board and Advisory Committees to monitor effective implementation of law.

- Rule 11 (2) of the PC and PNDT Ruler, 1996 has been amended to provide for confiscation unregistered machines and further punishment of organizations which fail to register themselves under the Act.
- Dedicated PNOT cells have been set up at State/district level for enhancing in house capacities building credible cases for conviction against violations of the act.
- Surprise field inspections of ultrasound clinics by the National Inspection and Monitoring Committed (NIMC) in States /UT against violations under the act.
- NIMC has been further empowered to oversee follow-up action by Appropriate Authorities against organizations found guilty of violations under the act during inspections.
- Sensitization and training program have been conducted for law enforcers, medical practitioners judiciary etc. for effective implementation of Act.
- Comprehensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities including mass awareness campaign through print and Electronic media and community mobilization through. Now governmental organizations have been undertaken.

Cases of female feticide:

The governments is implementing a comprehensive legislation, the pre-conception and pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (prohibition of sex selection) Act 1994 and the rules framed there under for prohibition selection before or after conception, regulation of pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques and Prevention of their for sex determination leading to female feticide.

Telecasting of the program through Doordarshan, All India Radio (Prasar Bharati) and also through digital cinema and FM stations is an effective communication and playing an important role in public awareness in this regard.

At National level, annual mass media campaign involving Doordarshan and All India Radio is law consistently every year for telecasting the programmes throughout the country including North-Eastern region amount of Rs. 455.5 lakhs has been released to Doordarshan and All India Radio for telecasting of PNOT Programmes during the current financial year. Besides that, states are also being provided financial through state programs implementation plans under NRHM separately for PNDT related IEC activities.

Female Feticide Cases:

- **4 men in scup for pre-natal sex identification feticide.**

Four men involved in a gender identification and feticide racket were arrested in Bengaluru. The palia spotted their car during a routine check and after a chase apprehended them: The men revealed that they would scan pregnant women to determine the gender of the fetus and would arrange for abortions if the baby was a girl.

- **What 50 grooms said about missing brides of Maharashtra**

Last month Solapur district saw a curious procession led by 50 odd eligible bachelors looking for wives in order to raise awareness about the state's skewed sex ratio.

- **West Bengal in monitor USG machine sales to ensure healthy sex ration.**

The state government is set to monitor the sales of USG machines with an eye on ensuring that the sex ratio in Bengal does not slide. According to the 2011 census, Bengal had reports 956 girls per 1000 boys.

- **Rajasthan fight against female feticide weakens, 3 cases filed this year.**

The sales battle for preventing female feticide is losing steam as just three cases have been failed at the PBI Police Station under Pre-Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCDNDT) --- of health department in 2022 so far.

- **Convicted Bead doctor's license to practice suspended again.**

The Maharashtra medical Council (MCI) has once again suspended the license of Dr. Sudam Munde who has served a seven year sentence in the infamous Bead female feticide a case and was once again arrested last month for practicing medicine despite being barred from doing so.

- **Punjab-in Fazilka, 3 month old girl**

A woman allegedly killed a month-old girl by burying her in the septic pond in order to settle a score with her cousin at Saldoka village under Jalalabad sub-division in Fazilka district.

- **Poverty unweaned moms put Maharashtra at number 1 on baby desertion list.**

Maharashtra saw the highest number of abandoned babies, feticides and infanticides combined across the country between 2015 and 2020, accounting for 18.3% of the National tally for 6,459.

- **Illegal trade photos of gods used in convey sex of fetus.**

Goddess Kanaka Durga is a symbol of woman power and empowerment, but radiologists, gynecologists other professionals involved in sex determination racket think otherwise.

Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males)

In children (0-6 yrs)

- 1) 1961-976 female / 1000 male
- 2) 1971-964 female / 1000 male
- 3) 1981- 964 female / 1000 male
- 4) 1991 – 645 female / 1000 male
- 5) 2001 – 927 female / 1000 male
- 6) 2011 – 943 female / 1000 male.

CONCLUSION:

Forth coming is the name of your girl child past is the name of your mother,. This is the reality that NO PRESENT, NO PAST, NO FUTURE, WITHOUT GIRL CHILD. Female feticide is suicide so, save the girl child and secure the future. There will be the dangerous results of the female feticide. Demography reports warn India that in the next 20 years there will be a scarcity of brides in the marriage. Market mostly because of the adverse sex ratio.

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