



Research Paper

Female Foeticide and Laws in India

Naresh Kumar

AP Sociology, GC Baroh(Kangra) HP

AnjanaGautam

AP Sociology, Govt Arya Degree College Nurpur

Dr Vinod Kumar Sharma

Associate Prof. Geography, GC Dharamsala

Abstract:

Every social problem has more or less some common roots and female foeticide is no exception. Traditional scriptures exhibit a partial attitude towards females. They have been considered to have lower status vis-a-vis their male counterparts. Female foeticide is the abortion of a female foetus. This practice has been rampant in our society. Even during earlier times when Diagnostic techniques were not developed female child after birth was either strangled or subjected to death due to malnutrition. This practice has some common cultural connections with the dowry system which has been prevailing since time immemorial in Indian society. Though this system was proclaimed to be unlawful since 1961, yet this is prevailing even during present times. In India due to some mis-spelt religious doctrines preference for sons still exists. In rural areas planning of pregnancies is done on the basis of number of sons in the family irrespective of the size of the family.

Keywords: -foeticide, society, inhuman, unlawful, technology

*Received 13 Dec, 2021; Revised 25 Dec, 2021; Accepted 27 Dec, 2021 © The author(s) 2021.
Published with open access at www.questjournals.org*

Every social problem has more or less some common roots and female foeticide is no exception. Traditional scriptures exhibit a partial attitude towards females. They have been considered to have lower status vis-a-vis their male counterparts. Female foeticide is the abortion of a female foetus. This practice has been rampant in our society. Even during earlier times when Diagnostic techniques were not developed female child after birth was either strangled or subjected to death due to malnutrition. This practice has some common cultural connections with the dowry system which has been prevailing since time immemorial in Indian society. Though this system was proclaimed to be unlawful since 1961, yet this is prevailing even during present times. In India due to some mis-spelt religious doctrines preference for sons still exists. In rural areas planning of pregnancies is done on the basis of number of sons in the family irrespective of the size of the family.

Pre-Natal Diagnostic techniques (PNDT) resorted so in order to know the sex and female foetus aborted immediately. This practice has been in vague since the technology made it possible. Prove my people circulars issued by government have bad sex determination tests yet this practice is still going on, most of the gynaecologists admit of having performed sex determination tests. They further admit the majority of patients are from middle or upper middle class who are keen on knowing the sex of the foetus.

Origin and magnitude:

Female foeticide has been linked to the arrival in the early 1990's, of affordable ultrasound technology and its widespread adoption in India. Ultrasonography checks for various markers of foetus sex. It can be performed after 12 weeks of conception and success rate of foetus success at this stage is 75%. The later the testing is done the more accuracy is likely to be there. This technique arrived in India in 1979. However it was in 1980's this technology was used in some of the major cities and it became widespread only during 2000. Magnitude of the problem vary from scholar to scholar. One service says that approximately 10 billion creators have been aborted since 1990 and 5 lakh female lose their life either due to 40 side or infanticide every year.

Reasons:

Multiple reasons are there of female foeticide in developing countries like India, Klasen and Wink suggest India and China sex ratios are primarily the result of sex selective abortion.

Cultural preferences:

Are preferred because they are competent manual labourers and success the family lineage. Acid is considered to be and as it there as daughter is near a liability says she is to be married off in another family and she will not be able to contribute to the family of her parents. This is the first foremost reason why female foeticide and infanticide are they committed in India.

Biased access to resources:

At times poor families are allowed less food and typically daughters share is even less as compared to sons share. Lopeh and Ruzikah (1983) found that, when given the same resources, women tend to outlive man at all stages of life after infancy. However globally, resources are not allocated equitably. Does some Scholars are queue this disparities in access to resources such as health care, education add nutrition play at least small role in the high sex ratios in some parts of the world.

Dowry system:

Dowry prohibition act of 1961 formally ended this inhuman practice. Yet it is impossible to monitor the prevalence of this widespread practice keeping the size of the families in India. A dowry is a payment from bride's family to the groom family at the time of marriage. Women are valued less skin partnership and therefore are supposed to pay in order to give the benefits of a man brings. The power hierarchy and financial obligation created through this system help perpetuate acts like female foeticide and high sex preference. Additional, the technological progress leading to sex selective about cells lowers the cost of of discrimination and many people think it is better to pay rupees 500 Now instead of rupees 5 lakh in future for dowry. Further goes Dory relieved expenses also stand on marriage. The bride's family is expected to be the border of high expenses for the groom.

Non-existent Social security system:

In India during old age parents are dependent in their circles for providing social security as there is no social security system in existence here. Parents usually prefer to have a son to provide them social security during their old age and female of specs are not preferred much does leading to foeticide and infanticide.

Policies for mitigation of menace of foeticide and Infanticide:

Other Legislation	Year Passed	Goals
Dowry Prohibition Act	1961	Prohibits families from taking a dowry, punishable with imprisonment
Hindu Marriage Act	1955	Rules around marriage and divorce for Hindus
Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act	1956	Deals with the legal process of adopting children and the legal obligation to provide "maintenance" for other family members
Immoral Traffic Prevention Act	1986	Stops sex trafficking and exploitation
Equal Remuneration Act	1976	Prevents monetary discrimination between men and women in the workforce
Female Infanticide Act	1870	Prevents female infanticide (Act passed in British India)
Ban on ultrasound testing	1996	Bans prenatal sex determination

Program	Year Passed	Central or State Government	Benefits
BalikaSamridhiYojana	1997	Central Government	Cash transfer to mother based on child meeting educational conditions and partaking in income generating activities
DhanLaxmi Scheme	2008	Central Government	Cash transfers to family after meeting conditions (immunization, education, insurance)
KanyaJagritiJyoti Scheme	1996	Punjab	Cash transfers to 2 girl children in a family after meeting

			conditions (immunization, education, insurance)
BetiBachao, BetiPadhaoYojana	2015	Central Government	Cash transfers based on educational attainment
National Plan of Action	1992	Central Government	For the survival, protection, and development of girl children. Goals include ending female foeticide, reducing gender disparity, and giving girls better access to resources
Devirupak	2002	Haryana	Cash transfer to couple accepting terminal method of family planning (vasectomy, tubectomy) after birth of 1st or 2nd child
Delhi Ladli Scheme	2008	Delhi	Cash transfer based on educational attainment for first 2 daughters
ApniBetiApnaDhan	1994	Haryana	Cash transfer if daughter reaches the age of 18 without being married
Girl Child Protection Scheme	2005	Andhra Pradesh	Cash transfer based on age and educational attainment. Family also has to partake in family planning
BetiHaiAnmol Scheme	2010	Himachal Pradesh	Interest earned on back account in daughter's name and cash scholarships for each year of school
BhagyaLaxmi Scheme	2007	Karnataka	Cash transfer based on age and educational attainment. Cash provided to families for natural death, health insurance, and scholarships
MukhyamantriKanyaSurakshaYojna and MukhyamantriKanyaVivahYojna	2008	Bihar	Cash transfers to poor families with two daughters
Indra Gandhi BalikaSurakshaYojana	2007	Himachal Pradesh	Cash transfers based on age attainment
LadliLaxamiYojna	2006	Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand	Cash transfers based on educational attainment
RakshakYojana	2005	Punjab	Cash monthly transfers for families with 2 girls
MukhyamantriKanyadanYojna	2017	Madhya Pradesh	Cash transfer for marriage assistance if the family waits until the legal age to marry off their daughter
SukanyaSamridhi Account	2015	Central Government	Interest earned on bank account opened for daughter after she turns 21

Conclusion:

This dreadful practice is inhuman and unlawful yet law alone is not sufficient to curb this practice. The roots are somewhere in the socio-cultural factors. It is the need of the hour to change the socio-cultural factors for this, awareness among the masses is required to be created. Various social reformists, NGOs, religious gurus and above all medical practitioners should come forward to tackle this vicious cycle and should co-ordinate with law enforcement agencies.

REFERENCES:

- [1]. Tandon, Sneha (2006): "Female Foeticide and Infanticide in India: An Analysis of Crimes against Girl Children"-*International Journal of Criminal Justice Science* Vol.: 1 Issue: 1
- [2]. T.V Sekher, (2015): "Special Financial Incentive Schemes for the Girl Child in India: A Review," *International Institute of Population Sciences*
- [3]. A.Gettis, J. Jettis and JD Fellman (2004): "Introduction to geography", Ninth edition, New York, McGraw Hills (Pp. 200).
- [4]. Klasen, Stephan and Wink, Claudia (2003): "Missing Women": Revisiting the Debate, *Feminist Economics*, vol. 9, issue 2-3, (Pp.263-299).
- [5]. Anderson, Siwan (Fall 2007): "The Economics of Dowry and Brideprice" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 21, No. 4, (Pp. 151-174)
- [6]. Unnithan-Kumar, Maya (February 2010): "Female selective abortion - beyond 'culture': family making and gender inequality in a globalising India", *Culture, Health Sexuality*, (Pp. 153-166).