

Female Foeticide Factors

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Abstract:

Nowadays, sex discriminating abortions and increase in number of female infanticide cases that have a significant social phenomenon in several parts of India. Before born, girls children are become target of attack because most people give the preference of son continues to be a widespread custom in traditional Indian household. Increasing the number and abuse of advanced technologies coupled with social factors such as dowry due to which decreasing the women status that is concerns with family name and looking up to the son as a employee has made the evil practice of female feticide to become common in the middle and higher socioeconomic households. In this paper, discuss about the factors which is responsible for female foeticide in India.

Keywords: Female Foeticide, Abortion, Infanticides, Dowry

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Introduction

In India, gender selection and its subsequent female infanticide remain a problem today. Sex ratio is calculated in India in which large number of women was missing because most preference was given to son according to patriarchal customs and promote the selective elimination of females through practices such as infanticide and sex selective abortion (Vickery and Teijlingen, 2017). Before birth, girl children become a target of attack due to which number of female was decreasing. According to Diaz stated that “well-known Abortion Centre in Mumbai, after undertaking the sex determination tests, out of the 15,914 abortions performed during 1984-85 almost 100 per cent were those of girl fetuses. Similarly, a survey report of women’s center in Mumbai found that out of 8,000 fetuses aborted in six city hospitals 7,999 fetuses were of girls” (Tandon and Sharma, 2006).

Foeticide or feticide is referred to an act that cause the death of a fetus. In legalized term, it is referred to as deliberate or incidentally killing of fetus due to a criminal human act, such as a blow to the abdomen of a pregnant lady. But in medical term, foeticide is destruction of fetus example as the first phase of a legal induced abortion (Khatun and Islam, 2011).

Factors responsible for Female Feticide

Ultrasonography (USG) technique is advanced technologies which is decreasing the sex ratios and increase in female feticides. Nowadays, contain facilities of sex determination through “clinic next door” are appropriately available with families prepared to dish out any amount that is demanded of them. Sex selection technique is most popular in western and northwestern states in 70s and early 80s but becoming popular in the south now. Sex of fetus is determine by using the trans-vaginal sonography at 13-14 weeks of pregnancy but at 14-16 weeks of pregnancy, sex of fetus is determine by using abdominal ultrasound. These techniques are easily accessible, feasible and inexpensive (Garg and Nath, 2008).

There are several factors was occur for female foeticide in India, which is as follows:

Economic Factors: In 21 century, female foeticide have a great deal to do with capitalist modernity. There are several factors exist in this phenomena.

- It has clear inverse correlation between income level and child sex ratio for rural household that is landed with property. It has gender based wage level in which females are paid less remuneration.

In most cases women enter in the domestic non-paid services which a patriarchal society gives little or no value at all, so they are regarded as liability than assets (Khatun and Islam, 2011).

- Dowry system is most powerful and widespread in India in which daughters are considered to be an economic liability. This system is more rigid in northern states of India which is likely to contribute to lesser child sex ratio. Female have little control over economic resources and the best way for a young north Indian bride to gain domestic power mainly come from her ability to produce children, particularly, sons. Until recently, dowries were unheard of and benefits of inheritance for daughters were not rules out. Since this century, recorded dowry deaths are increasing. Approximately 7000-8000 per year brides are murdered because of lack of payment of dowry and 3000-4000 brides are committed suicides due to dowry system. Pre marriage and marriage are described as ‘consumption oriented reproductive journey’ that is the thought of brides (Garg and Nath, 2008).

Socio-ritual factors: In patriarchal societal structure of India, female are helpless to cruelties of the male in the forms of physical, mental and sexual assaults and traumas. Females are dominated, condemned, and deprived in sphere of life. In this patriarchal society, every parents of girl child is at a risk for their daughter for the mentioned causes. These socio-rituals factors demand for lead to desire for a male baby and discarding the females one after another that is according to illiteracy and conventional society norms (Khatun and Islam, 2011).

Status of women: In this status, most important factor is responsible for decreasing child sex ratio is low status of Indian women coupled with traditional gender bias. Girl child’s health, nutrition and education have been neglected while it is most important things for girls. With the passage of time, women status suffered significant and sharp decline and they were looked down upon as ‘slaves of slaves’ (Garg and Nath, 2008).

Gender Discrimination: In India, bias against females which is grounded in cultural, economic and religious roots. In field works, sons are expected, provide greater income and look after parents in old age. Sons are looked upon as a type of insurance in this way. According to patriarchal society, sons are responsible for “preservation” of the family name. As per the Hindu belief, lighting the funeral pyre by a son is considered necessary for salvation of the spirit. This strong preference for sons which results in a life-endangering by removal of daughters, is not

considered hateful culturally and socially. In north India, 60% of unwanted birth of girls and elimination of unwanted fertility in this manner has potential to raise the sex ratio at birth to 130 boys per 100 girls.

Gender discrimination reveals itself in the form of delay in seeking medical care, seeking care from less qualified doctors and spending lesser money on medicines when a daughter is sick. Mother gave the birth of daughter due to which they are extreme disappointment and can adversely affect her ability to breastfeed the girl child that leads to poor nutritional status. It is no wonder that the occurrence of malnutrition and stunting is higher in girls than boys (Garg and Nath, 2008).

Technological factors: Female foeticide is a latest trend of long established gender bias. Persons are civilized with time and killing female babies have also been civilized. Ultrasound technology is low cost technology due to which persons determine the sex and lead to sex-based abortion of female fetuses and increasing the low percentage of girls born per year.

Population Policy: Indian family planning policies encourage a two child family and health family says that abortion of female fetuses in efforts to have a “complete family” with at least one son (Khatun and Islam, 2011).

Review of Literature

PAKRASI and HALDER 1971, stated that two sexes in Indian families of urban and rural areas conform generally that finding the relevant distribution and sequences. In urban and rural families, first born children have found in sample a high masculinity at birth. In present samples, sex ratio among first-born children comes to 127 males/100 females and this is not different from given rural children of first parity in Indian families in 1951.

Jha et al. 2006, concluded that in India, sex ratio is affected by sex of previous child and children of current birth, with fewer females born as second or third children to families who have yet to have a boy. In rural and urban areas and irrespective of religion, with respect to sex ratio of second order births are finding. This paper has interpretation is that households are ensuring that at least one boy is born. The deficit in the number of girls born as second children is more than twice as great in educated than in uneducated mothers, assuming equal births. Educational level are not correlated with income or measures of wealth, such as land holding is the differences that is noted down.

Kumar 2012, concluded that India has yet a long way to go in her fight against declining female sex ratio, pre-birth elimination of females and time is quickly ticking away. By shortage of girls, lead to shortage of eligible brides thus making the girl a “scarce commodity”. According to United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) projection, 30% males are single at the end of 2025 and that many will never be able to marry at all. In state of Haryana and Punjab, 20% men are not to get married due to the deficiency of marriageable women.

Malaviya 2017, dictated that the findings infer that sex ratio at birth is not only affected by son-preference through prenatal discrimination using ultra sound followed by amniocentesis or through sex preferred rearing pattern, for the desired compositional and sequential family size, but intention for delaying further pregnancies or their prevention, play a great role in the determination of masculinity at the primary age-group of population. Economic development along with continuous improvement in health technology and facilities as well as advanced knowledge of family planning practices in combination with preferential rearing pattern has a potential to change the sex structure of the population both at micro and macro level.

Vickery and Teijlingen 2017, concluded that pressure on women from patriarchal social, cultural and religious traditions from India which conform to the social expectation of producing sons and contributes to continuation of female infanticides. In Nepal country, son preference promote according to patriarchal social, cultural and religious traditions but the extent to which this results in female infanticides is seemingly less than neighboring India, although still evident. Female infanticides is a human rights issue and preventing this can only occur by changing the deeply fixed cultural and socio-economic factors which promote the demand for sex-selective abortion and Female infanticides.

Conclusion

Female foeticide is increasing day by day due to which decrease the female sex ratio. According to India customs, persons are most preference to give the sons not to girls because they said that sons are increasing their families and handle their works. By using the ultrasonography (USG), they know the sex of baby, if baby is female, then they are upset and abortion take place and if baby is male, then they are happy. By using the legal enforcement, abortion and female foeticide is possible to stop and female infants will see the light and breathe the air of earth



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