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FEMALE FOETICIDE AND SEX RATIO : AN ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

In India where "Putravati Bhavah" is a very common and popular benison which the married female often receive at every occasion. Actually it shows the double standards regarding acts and statement. An open secret our constitution is that it gives provision that ensures justice and equality for everybody in every segment of life. Our mother nature also has provided equality and justice for both male and female at the equal level through the division of labour.

In connection with development, every other day we are reaching to new heights and creating new milestones to try to get rid of the pollution in the atmosphere, but we are, on the other hand, few steps away of doing any positive against our "Mental Pollution" the root of which is there deep inside in our social system. It symbolizes the 'cultural lagging' the present condition of male and female, who are to accompany each other the path of development. In spite of getting successfully into many of the fields which were reserved only for male MANU is still prevailing in the mind sets of the society, and the society is still not prepared to accept the development of women broad heartedly consequently the problems like sex determinations test, female foeticide and the current society accepted new form of dowry are generated because this mental pollution.

The present research article is an attempt of scientific approach towards the reason and the solution of the problem of female foeticide in the society.

Key Words – *Mental Pollution, Female foeticide,*

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INTRODUCTION

In the constitution of independent India, in every fields of life it may be social or economical or political, male and female are given the equal right regarding any thing. Mother Nature also has provided justice for both male and female in terms of logical distribution of their natural abilities and responsibilities. Still there is no any indication that we are able to change our perceptions even a little towards the fair sex despite touching the heights in technical and any other spheres.

We can't deny this horrible fact reaching at the top of all the possible fields. We have sill are not been able to change the thinking of the society regarding the female sex and the sex ratio which should have been decreasing is growing at a rapid rate. **Yogendra Singh says-**

"Because of the Urbanization and Industrialization the traditional belief and the ideologies of the society came to an end but to replace them no any other positive, and substantial belief or ideology generated in our society".⁽¹⁾

The present condition and the ratio between male and female sex clearly reflects the mental pollution in our social system. The present condition of male and female gives us the idea of cultural legging Despite constitutional provision and reformists support still the female sex in India and expected to be guided by the parallel system according to which religion, rituals, traditions, respect of the elders are the factor that a female has to respect and be guided in accordance with these conditions nurture and manure the sex based discrimination. In a family which is the base and a initial social unit, where a child at the very beginning receives and accustoms the injustice and in equality, as a very casual manner, which rejects in his behavior and manners from time to time when he grows up.

Nehru ji once said on our this very social system that

"Here (in our society) cow dung era (primitive beliefs) and atomic era both exist simultaneously, and it is a very strange society, which is at every level full of conflicts and dual nature."⁽²⁾

The mal - traditions in our society are a question mark on the existence of the female sex. Except a very few states (2-4) all the states have been witnessing a clearly seen decline in the birth rate of female child. In spite of having a great per capita income along with literacy rate at a satisfactory level the states like Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujrat etc. are the states where the sex ratio is increasing negatively in favour of female sex.⁽³⁾ Not only in Indian society but in China also the sex ratio is increasing rapidly because of foeticide specially female foeticide⁽⁴⁾

AIM OF THE STUDY

The present research article is based on the observation and the analysis of the secondary facts. The target of is research paper is to analyze the historical facts of this great problem of our social life and comparing as well as observing the problem in today's perspective, and try to reach to the possible solution to eradicate it from our society.

DATA ANALYSIS

In 1901 the sex ratio between male and female was 972/1000, which decreased to 933/1000 by 2001.

Table No. 1
State wise Sex Ratio

S.No	State	1991	2001
	India	927	933
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	896	900
2.	Himanchal Pradesh	976	970
3.	Punjab	882	874
4.	Chandigarh	790	773
5.	Uttaranchal	936	964
6.	Haryana	865	861
7.	Delhi	827	821
8.	Rajasthan	910	922
9	Uttar Pradesh	876	898
10.	Bihar	907	921
11.	Sikiam	878	875
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	859	901
13.	Nagalend	886	909
14.	Manipur	958	978
15.	Mizoram	921	938
16.	Tripura	945	950
17.	Meghalaya	955	975

Female Foeticide

18.	Asam	923	932
19.	West Bengal	917	934
20.	Jharkhand	922	941
21.	Odisha	971	972
22.	Chattisgarh	985	990
23.	Madhya Pradesh	912	920
24.	Gujrat	934	921
25.	Daman and Deev	969	709
26.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	952	811
27.	Maharashtra	934	922
28.	Andhra Pradesh	972	978
29.	Karnatak	960	964
30.	Goa	967	960
31.	Lakshadweep	943	947
32.	Keral	1036	1058
33.	Tamil Naidu	974	986
34.	Pundichery	979	1001
35.	Undaman and Nikobar Ilands	818	846

Source : Census Report 2001

The analysis of the data leads us to a question what happened to the numbers of girls which we receive through the observation of the data. This decrement in the number of girls is a straight forward and a sharp warning, regarding what we are going to face in future. The sharp decline in the number of females in respect of the number of males is a proof itself that the half of the population is at a dead end of an alley regarding the matter of reforms. The responsible factors are mentioned :-

- The discrimination with the female specially with the young girls regarding their education, bringing up, medical and health related matters .

Analyzing the data of the population we land to the fact that there are certain stages where death rate is comparatively higher

in girl child. The infancy period, the from 15 year to 19 year, from 20 year to 29 year and the from 30-40 year of age, the death rate in girls is bit higher. After 35 year of age there is a decline noticed in the rate. By this age the woman establish themselves and secure their place in a family or society. The most of the death cases take place during delivery of the child marriage at earlier age, improper medical facilities, and lack of awareness are the main factors for this

- At the time of the birth of the child the sex ratio is in favour of a male child means there are more numbers of the male child born to the female child birth.
- During 1984, all the 4 years witnessed a higher death rate for female child between 4 years of age to 9 years of age. In Bihar, M.P., Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P., Gujrat and Tamil Nadu. There are enough evidences of the killings of female child.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

There is sure a historical aspect of this heinous crime, female foeticide. In the previous time of Jamindars, there were many horrible and shame full practices were prevailing to kill the baby girls. Some times the girl were given a poisonous extract from a tree "Aak" and some other time they were killed by crushing under the bedstead, a four leged bed made of wood. At this advance period **Aminosintosys** is the process through which girl child is being killed. In the 19th century the northern India specially North-West India was notorious for the killing of girl child. To kill the new born girl child was very common in Rajpoots, Kshatriya and Bedi's (a race in Punjab). Bedis were called to be **Kudimaar** (girl killer) very frequently. To poison the baby girl by feeding her injected cold or hot milk was found with Rajpoots in very common.

Some anthropologists and sociologists believe that in ancient time, in some of tribes, **Bali** (killing girl child in the name of the god) **system** was there. They did this for healthy crops, to win battles and to save themselves from diseases. **Professor S.V. Roy Choudhary** believes that this prevails still in Bedi, Jatwal, Rajpoots, Aheer, Meena, Gurjar, Baiga, and the Jadeja, sub caste in Gujrat and Rajasthan.

At distt. Katihar in Bihar there is a 60years old lady name Dukani Devi a mid wife, she kills the baby girl during the delivery and received Rs. 50/- per case. She performed this heinous act of hess before **Caroline Lee** a correspondent of **The Times** a London based magazine. An NGO which is run on the funding by UNICEF, found when it consulted 85 midwives that every month each of them kill at least 4 baby girls. They told that the fathers of the girl children waiting outside the labour room paid them for this and they were threatened and beaten badly if deny to follow them, and

this fact was told by Adila Devi a 40 years old mid wife. Just before the world woman's conference the magazine 'News Week' published a photograph in its issue, people were absolutely paralyzed and shocked to watch it. It was the picture of a huge sandy area which was called to be graveyard in desert. Here girl infants are buried in the desert alive in Punjab there was a doctor, who installed an ultrasound machine in his clinic and work on his display board "Invest just and save 50,000" as if having female child foeticide were any work of great achievement.

In fact, such kind of traditions are always there with the societies; that though because of the social development we may have gone far away of our roots, but the traditional believes are always, and will always be with us. A philosopher like Marx also refers, "The traditions of all the gone generations are always these in the un-conscious memory of an alive person, like an obsession." (5)

The truth is that the lessening number of the girl children because of female foeticide is a matter of great concern. Right from the birth till all the spheres of life facing sex discrimination is a big question mark on all the constitutional provisions on equality. It is not that the negative ratio in favour of female is because of some biological fact; because biologically the bio structure of a woman is stronger than a man; that why developed countries the number of women is greater than the number of men. In India socio-economical conditions are proving this biological formula to be in correct.

THE PRESENT SCENARIO

There is always a system in the nature of the human, that leads him do positive or negative. It can be creative or it can be destructive too. We have created many land marks in the fields of knowledge and science. Now we can treat successfully and get rid of many incurable diseases. One strange fact is there regarding our topic is that the form of the problem has changed but not the root problem. The people who proclaim for the development of the society and female empowerment, most of the time they are basically the people who are responsible for the existence of this problem. The negative mindsets and social beliefs that are these in our society i.e.- Son (male) will take care of us at the time of need. Son will help us to achieve eternal peace MOKSHA. Son saves us in the society and that the Son takes the flag of our vansh (race of the family). These are the beliefs which generate the problem of sex based discrimination and female foeticides and it ultimately reaches to the discrimination in bringing up a male child and female child.

Nuclear families, and only two children should make a perfect family also some how or the other nurtures this tendency that out of two children one must be male one. Ravi Verma who belongs to "International

Population Studies" says that- " Indian family which as a result of the government teaching and preaching is becoming a smaller one also finds it suitable to sacrifice daughters to the sons, perfunctorily".⁽⁶⁾ Here the data shows the unbalance sex ratio by the census 2001.

Table - 2
Child Sex Ratio

States/Central Provinces	Ratio in 6 year child	States/Central Provinces	Ratio in 6 year child
Punjab	793	Jammu and Kashmir	937
Delhi	865	Manipur	961
Haryana	793	Chandigarh	845
Himanchal Pradesh	865	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	937
Madhya Pradesh	820	Undaman and Nikobar Ilands	965
Maharashtra	897	Daman and Deev	925
Bihar	938	Pundichery	958
Chandigarh	845	Nagalend	975
Gujrat	878	Odisa	950
Uttar Pradesh	916	Tamil Naidu	939
Jharkhand	966	Rajasthan	909
Chattisgarh	975	West Bengal	963
Lakshadeep	974	Goa	933
Keral	963	Karnatak	949
Sikiam	986	Uttaranchal	906
Tripura	965	Meghalaya	975
Mizoram	971	Asam	964
Arunachal Pradesh	961		

Source : Census Report 2001.

Seeing the above chart we can have an overt idea of the sex ratio among children. Many mis beliefs existing in the society such as: safety of the girl child, trying to find a suitable marital match for the girl when she grows up, narrow mindedness of the people, expenses towards marriage, even after the marriage of the demand (mainly financial) from the in laws of the girl, etc. are some of the mindsets in our society, that make the people think negating, towards having a girl child.

Whatever the gravely serious out come that we reach to after analyzing our consensus and the social beliefs that the active and positive participation of the female sex in political, economical and social field has been increased, whereas the sex ratio is decreased very sharply. Many of the surveys also reveal this fact that the health related expenditure on females is comparatively less than that of on males. (7)

In India 10 million girl children are born every year out of them the number of foeticide cases is approximately 20 lacs. That mean 2 lac 90,000 girls are killed even before they are born. Indian Medical Association also claims this number to be up to 50 lacs. One of the most dangerous facts associated with the topic is that now this businesses (?) has reached worth Rs. 50 million to 1 billion businesses. Mainly private hospitals are playing the main culprit regarding this and this is not only limited to urban areas, but rural India also is involved in this ethical and judicial crime equally. **Manjit Rathi** says that **"the very first condition in any civic society or any democracy is the right to live. To be afraid of giving both to a girl child is not only deprives a complete race from the right to live but it the one of the most brutal face of violence also, which is purely based on the killing of a human being."**(8)

Many of the studies show that many parents from educated and rich background, and also the parents belong to upper casts, kill their urban girl child in the womb. In many localities like Udaypur, Alwar, Sikri, Chittodgarh etc. the number of the girls has become less. Many area of Rajasthan and Punjab states this ratio has reached to 800 girls/1000 boys; these are the places where almost 20,000 caces of females foeticide are happened. Jadeja (Gujrat) and Lewakambis are also the places where the same problem is noticed to have occurred at a large level. In Delhi region 1 out of every five girl child is killed on born. But on the other hand this problem, is not seen in South Eastern States like Kerala, Tamilnadu , Skkim and Mizooram etc.

If the population of the girls keeps decreasing at the existing rate in coming years, 2.5 crore of boys will remain unmarried because of the unavailability of the match for them for a normal manner one hesitates to, or does not think of getting any sex determination test, but if the cases where the first child of the parents is a girl almost 90% of the parents not

only go for a sex determination test, but in many cases they get the child killed in embryo if it is found a girl here we can say that the development of the medical science has played a vital role though indirectly in such kind of increasing number of foeticides.

Although for the purpose of checkup of the unborn baby inside the womb and to determine its sex there is an act called P.C.P.N.D.T. Act which has been in effect from Feb. 14th 2003, but as it is seen, that there is a great difference between making a law and the ground reality thus in an indirect way the rate of female foeticide has continuously been increasing every other day.

The very reasons of this problem resides in old traditions of the society. Where longingness for sons, want of care in old age, a desire to get married in high profile family (upper cast), dowry desire for MOKSHA, to get free of Pitri Rin are the factors that make this problem more complicated. And it ultimately results in to lack of proper balance between male and female crime, chiefly sex related crime, rape cases, abduction, call girls, unethical sex buiseness, and because of these the society is getting deteriorating ethically day by day. According to one of the speeches of the Prime Minister, on Aug. 23rd 2005 *"The rise of the female has to be ensured before their birth, and it no cost, female foeticide is accepted in a society"*.⁽⁹⁾

It is not that the rank and file has not been attempted to make aware of this important and a highly sensitive matter. Many articles, papers and magazines, movies, and short plays are some of the mediums, through which it has been tried to put light over many of the vague and the candid aspects of this burning issue but it almost resulted in to ash only. To eradicate this curse from society, the male oriented mindset of the society has to be checked. Many inspirations and examples have to be brought forward; such as one of the news published on **March 28th 2008** through **Press Trust** according to which a mohammaden woman Rajia sued her husband in the court of law, with the charges of getting her checked for sex determination and then forcing her to have an abortion to kill the unborn female child in the womb.

Bill Gates who is a renowned billionaire, and the owner of the biggest software making company in the world, has formed a social service organization in the name of his wife and spent a great amount of his wealth, to help the poor in the third world countries. This foundation achieved a remarkable success and example in **ShivGarh**. (U.P.) where in last 18 months, it made the pregnant ladies aware of many of the facts related with pregnancy and simultaneously made them take precautions during this period and provided them required medical facilities, and the pleasant result was that the death rate among the new born children which was 80/100 reduced to 40 per thousand.

So it is clear that we don't have to go far to right this problem, but we just have to check our mental pollution. Still it is not too late to wake up and to saved the future generation female foeticide at this mass level should be observed in the light of its social factors, and this can be done not only by the government. but N.G.O's also can play a great role in it.

SUGGESTION

In fact our society is living in a dual mentality. Where there are problems, these are solution too some main steps, which have to be taken to counter this mental pollution are :-

1. We have to fight the value of the deeply rooted male oriented society.
2. Spread of education can reduce the problem.
3. To remove the sex based discrimination, there should be counseling for both mother and father. It means that bring up a child should not be the duty of mothers alone but fathers also should take the responsibilities.
4. To save the interests of the female, the democratic and the thought feel people should come forward. This should not be the responsibilities of the female sex.
5. The medical society should start a movement both at theoretical and at practical level, to stop foeticides.
6. There must be state level teams of administrative officers and it must consist of the delegates of the female organizations also.
7. To think to start socio-cultural movements which can adjoin many streams working in different fields.

Just to change the mentality of the people regarding the problem. Religious gurus and saints also can play a vital role because the God fearing religious Indian society listens to them and follow them almost blindly.

8. War level awareness and programmes should be introduced, where educational institution also should be motivated to come forward, the participants students should be given bonus marks. Inside and outside the education institution, seminars, street plays, debates, puppet shows etc. can generate awareness in rural areas.

In this direction one NGO "Datamation Organization" situated in Delhi has been working as a forum where any kind

of complaints related with foeticides can be registered online.
The IP address of the website is www.indianfemalefoeticide.org

CONCLUSION

Discrimination based on sex, and female foeticides are like parasites a curse to the society because of male oriented society and the favour of small family are the fuels to this fire. In a changed scenario sensitive people have to start a big movement to save their existence, and an a matter of fact that it is close to impossible because in the current social system just to counter such type of activism, people are conspiringly urged to have conflicts between them. It is a matter of shame for our administrators that the half of our population is deprived of its basic rights.

If an innocent bud is killed before it matures, this will endanger our society. So the change of the existing system is the only way which can be effective to counter the problem. Today we need a system, where female and male are equal in number in status opportunity. Today we need to rethink that law only cannot help us to eradicate the social problems. During the 19th century the social reformers with the help of the British Rulers could do away with problems like Sati Pratha. Like wise today also we need to make similar kind of effort. Gift of Science, Ultrasonography is the main culprit behind mass female foeticide . Science should new invent such instrument which will help one not to know the sex of the unborn child. Which means science must be in a position to counter its own inventions for the benefit of human civilization.

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