

Gender discrimination, Violence and Sex Ratio

Abstract

The study shows the decline in sex ratio as per the data collected from different states of India. A particular specific study has been done on the decline in sex ratio in different districts of J&K state with a particular emphasis on district Kathua.. The main cause of this decline is female infanticide with the help of advancement in medical education (ultrasound technology). The study shows that the long queues in front of such scanning machines is creating havoc. A specific study of district Kathua shows such a decline and the main factor responsible for decline is sex selective abortion. The other factors are cultural construct of Indian society in which social evils totally harassed the women. Some suggestive measures like girl education and strict enforcement of laws as well as a strict vigil on ultrasound centers is the need of the hour. Awareness drives through students of colleges and universities particularly those associated with N.S.S and N.C.C. These students should present skits and Nukad Nataks with a theme on the safety and survival of girl child .

Key words: Infanticide, Ultrasound, Census, Sex-ratio, Dowry, N.G.Os.

Introduction

- 1) Discriminatory attitude towards women.
- 2) Constitution of India has granted equal rights.
- 3) Limited opportunities for women.
- 4) Cultural construct of Indian society.
- 5) Female infanticide.
- 6) Census 2011 shows a decline.

Census 2011:

S. No.	State	Sex ratio 2011 census	Sex ratio 2001 census
-	India	940	933
1	Kerala	1084	1058
2	Puducherry	1038	1001
3	Tamil Nadu	995	986
4	Andhra Pradesh	992	978
5	Chhattisgarh	991	990
6	Manipur	987	978
7	Meghalaya	986	975
8	Orissa	978	972
9	Mizoram	975	938
10	Himachal Pradesh	974	970
11	Karnataka	968	964
12	Goa	968	960
13	Uttarakhand	963	964
14	Tripura	961	950
15	Assam	954	932
16	Jharkhand	947	947
17	West Bengal	947	934
18	Lakshadweep	946	901
19	Maharashtra	946	917
20	Nagaland	931	909
21	Madhya Pradesh	930	920
22	Rajasthan	926	922
23	Arunachal Pradesh	920	941
24	Gujarat	918	921
25	Bihar	916	921
26	Uttar Pradesh	908	898
27	Punjab	893	874
28	Sikkim	889	875
29	J&K	883	900
30	Andaman Nicobar	878	846
31	Haryana	877	861
32	Delhi	866	821
33	Chandigarh	818	773



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34 Dadra Nagar Haveli 775 811
 35 Daman and Diu 618 709
 as between upper castes and the lower castes,
 which

Top five districts with Highest female ratio:

S.No	District	State	Sex Ratio
1	Mahe	Puducherry	1176.24
2	Almora	Uttarakhand	1141.52
3	Kannur	Kerala	1133.14
4	Pathanamthitta	Kerala	1128.73
5	Ratnagiri	Maharashtra	1122.77

Bottom five districts with lowest female ratio:

Sr	District	State	Sex Ratio
1	Daman	Daman & Diu(UT)	533.44
2	Leh	J&K	583.35
3	Tawang	Arunachal	701.24
4	West Kameng	Arunachal	755.43
5	North District	Sikkim	768.61

Sex ratio in J&K

S.No.	District	2011 Female sex ratio	2011 child sex ratio
1	Kulgam	951	882
2	Shopian	951	883
3	Anantnag	937	832
4	Doda	922	932
5	Kishtwar	917	922
6	Pulwama	913	836
7	Bandipora	911	893
8	Ramban	901	931
9	Reasi	891	921
10	Poonch	890	895
11	Samba	886	787
12	Budgam	883	832
13	Srinagar	879	869
14	Kathua	877	836
15	Baramulla	873	866
16	Jammu	871	795
17	Ganderbal	869	863
18	Udhampur	863	887
19	Rajouri	863	837
20	Kupwara	843	854
21	Kargil	775	978
22	Leh	583	

Sex ratio in Kathua District

	Census 2011	Census 2001
Total population	615711	511455
No. of males	327953	269457
No. of females	287758	241998
Sex ratio	877	898

	Rural	Urban
Total population %	85.62%	14.38 %
Sex ratio	878	871
Child sex ratio	840	805
Male literacy	79.67%	91.37%
Female literacy	61.73%	80.86%

Factors responsible for the decline in female ratio:

1. Congratulations on the Birth of a Son

When a boy is born in most developing countries, friends and relatives exclaim congratulations. A son means insurance. He will inherit his father's property and get a job to help support the family.

2. Weeping on the birth of a girl

When a girl is born, the reaction is very different. Some women weep when they find out their baby is a girl because, to them, a daughter is just another expense. Her place is in the home, not in the world of men. In some parts of India, it's traditional to greet a family with a newborn girl by saying, "The servant of your household has been born."

3. Declared as Second rated

A girl can't help but feel inferior when everything around her tells her that she is worth less than a boy. Her identity is forged as soon as her family and society limit her opportunities and declare her to be second-rate.

4. Devoid of living up to their full potential

A combination of extreme poverty and deep biases against women creates a remorseless cycle of discrimination that keeps girls in developing countries from living up to their full potential. It also leaves them vulnerable to severe physical and emotional abuse. These "servants of the household" come to accept that life will never be any different.

5. 5000 killed each year for Dowry

In developing countries, the birth of a girl causes great upheaval for poor families. When there is barely enough food to survive, any child puts a strain on a family's resources. But the monetary drain of a daughter feels even more severe, especially in regions where dowry is practiced. Dowry is goods and money a bride's family pays to the husband's family. Originally intended to help with marriage expenses, dowry came to be seen as payment to the groom's family for taking on the burden of another woman. In some countries, dowries are extravagant, costing years' worth of wages, and often throwing a woman's family into debt. Dowry practice makes the prospect of having a girl even more distasteful to poor families. It also puts young women in danger: A new bride is at the mercy of her in-laws should they decide her dowry is too small. UNICEF estimates that around 5,000 Indian women are killed in dowry-related incidents each year.

6. Breast-feeding for a shorter time

The developing world is full of poverty-stricken families who see their daughters as an economic predicament. That attitude has resulted in the widespread neglect of baby girls in Africa, Asia, and South America. In many communities, it's a regular practice to breastfeed girls for a shorter

time than boys so that women can try to get pregnant again with a boy as soon as possible. As a result, girls miss out on life-giving nutrition during a crucial window of their development, which stunts their growth and weakens their resistance to disease.

7. Eating left overs

Statistics show that the neglect continues as they grow up. Young girls receive less food, healthcare and fewer vaccinations overall than boys. Not much changes as they become women. Tradition calls for women to eat last.

8. Killed her with oleander and castor oil feeding

In extreme cases, parents make the horrific choice to end their baby girl's life. One woman named Lakshmi from Tamil Nadu, an impoverished region of India, fed her baby sap from an oleander bush mixed with castor oil until the girl bled from the nose and died. "A daughter is always liabilities. How can I bring up a second?" said Lakshmi to explain why she chose to end her baby's life. "Instead of her suffering the way I do, I thought it was better to get rid of her."

9. Umbilical cord

Some illegal practices such as allowing the umbilical cord become infected are also responsible for the killing of daughters.

10. 3500 abortions

Sex-selective abortions are even more common than infanticides in India. They are growing ever more frequent as technology makes it simple and cheap to determine a fetus' gender. In Jaipur, a Western Indian city of 2 million people, 3,500 sex-determined abortions are carried out every year. The gender ratio across India has dropped to an unnatural low of 927 females to 1,000 males due to infanticide and sex-based abortions.

11. 45 percent assaulted

Even after infancy, the threat of physical harm follows girls throughout their lives. Women in every society are vulnerable to abuse. But the threat is more severe for girls and women who live in societies where women's rights mean practically nothing. Mothers who lack their own rights have little protection to offer their daughters, much less themselves, from male relatives and other authority figures. The frequency of rape and violent attacks against women in the developing world is alarming. Forty-five percent of Ethiopian women say that they have been assaulted in their lifetimes. In 1998, 48 percent of Palestinian women admitted to being abused by an intimate partner within the past year.

12. Honor killings

In some cultures, the physical and psychological trauma of rape is compounded by an additional stigma. In cultures that maintain strict sexual codes for women, if a woman steps out of

bounds—by choosing her own husband, flirting in public, or seeking divorce from an abusive partner—she has brought dishonor to her family and must be disciplined. Often, discipline means execution. Families commit "honor killings" to salvage their reputation tainted by disobedient women.

13. Sharing

Among certain communities in Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Punjab, the sex ratio is extremely adverse for women. As a result of this, a wife could be shared by brothers or sometimes even by patri lateral parallel cousins.

14. Polyandry

Recently, in Gujarat, there have been disturbing reports of the re-introduction of polyandry (a Panchali system where a woman is married to five men). In villages in Mehsana District, the problem of a declining number of girls has created a major social crisis as almost all villages have hundreds of boys who are left with no choice but to buy brides from outside.

15. Sexual services

Poor girls from tribal communities in Gujarat and Karnataka are purchased by the agents and married off to households where the woman has to provide sexual services to all male members of the extended family. It is estimated that 1 million children in the world are involved in sex trade.

16. Nine million more than boys miss out school

School might be an option for a few years, but most girls are pulled out at age 9 or 10 when they are useful enough for to work all day at home.

17. Labour

A girl is likely to work from before day break until the light drains away. She cleans, grinds corn, gathers fuel, tends to the fields, brings water, bathes her younger siblings, prepares food, eats left over, cleanses utensils, washes clothes and collapses exhausted each night.

Initiatives for protection

1. Supreme court

Supreme Court of India directed all state governments to effectively and promptly implement the Pre-natal Diagnostics Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act (enacted in 1994 and brought into operation from 1st January 1996). Now, it is renamed "The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act".

2. Women's movement

The women's movement has emphasized women's rights using slogans such as: Eliminate Inequality, Not Women, Destroy Dowry & Dehumanization, Not Daughters; Say "No" to Sex-determination, Say "Yes" to Empowerment of Women. Say "No" to Sex Discrimination, Say "Yes"

to Gender Justice; and Daughters are Not for Slaughter.

3. New Delhi

Alarmed by the increasing female foeticide cases, both the Centre and the state governments have formulated new policies to curb this menace. A slew of measures, including monitoring the use of ultrasound machines and setting up state inspection committees to check pre-natal sex determination have been decided upon by the government.

4. Monthly assessment

In order to keep a close eye on the heinous crime, the government has decided to conduct a monthly assessment of child birth in each district instead of depending only on the census carried out every ten years. Action would be taken immediately at places which record low female ratio.

5. Ease the financial needs

You can help pull down the barriers that keep girls from attending school and begin to bring change for women in developing countries. The most direct way is by easing the financial need that forces families to take their children out of school in the first place.

6. Vocational training

Dozens of international organizations are working to improve the livelihood of impoverished people. By building infrastructure and providing aid, vocational training, and education programs, they give families in developing countries resources to create healthy and stable lives. That takes the burden of mere survival off young women and gives them the time to get an education. With practical help and encouragement, girls are more likely to enroll and stay in school.

7. Authority

Even bigger changes become possible as girls' education becomes the cultural norm. Women can't defend themselves against physical and sexual abuse until they have the authority to speak against it without fear. Knowledge gives that authority. Women who have been educated are half as likely to undergo harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and four times as likely to protect their daughters from it. The Global Campaign for Education also states that a primary education defends women against HIV/AIDS infection—disproportionately high for women in developing countries—by giving "the most marginalized groups in society—notably young women—the status and confidence needed to act on information and refuse unsafe sex.

8. Role of N.C.C, N.S.S NGO's and other Voluntary organizations:

These organizations should work wholeheartedly for the greater cause of saving the

daughters by awaring the masses and acting as the invigilators so that illegal practices may be avoided.

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