

Method Used For The Study of Female Foeticide in Patna Urban and Rural Areas

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Abstract

Human race has left no stone unturned in making development in every sphere of life, but still some of the phase of life, have been facing the grey area, Female – foeticide, is a stereotype or a gender biased, abortion of girl child beyond the legal procedures. Despite high profile advancement we are lagging behind far sex ratios is concerned. It is assumed to be between 103 and 107, and any numbers above it is considered as female foeticide. In all the North eastern and Southern states of India child sex ratio is within normal range but in Western, north and eastern states such as Haryana, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir is at alarming rate.

I selected this topic among many other social abuses because personally I observed the growing disparities in our society while conducting my research. I come across people of different attitudes from rural and urban areas of Patna. And I learned much about beliefs of people in our society. I also learned much that I did not intend to learn about this fact that were unrelated to my specific area of study. I am still continuing my learning on my research topic. This Article is my another step to learn more about this burning issue.

Keywords: Female–Foeticide, Sex Determination, Society, Rural and Urban Areas.

Introduction

Female foeticide is the termination of female foetal in the womb of a mother. The substantial deficit of daughters has caused deep imbalances in the sex-ratio. While the national child sex ratio in 1991 was 945 girls for every 1000 boys aged 0 to 6, by 2011, it has fallen to 918. Girls continue to be eliminated from the normal race of society in large number through this heinous practice of female foeticide as a symbol of direct preferential attitudes towards male child. This is really a shocking loss to the human race who would have been in our homes in different relations like our daughters, sisters, mother, wives etc. It has become a disgraceful and shameful act for the whole society. In india strong essence can be felt to have male child over girl child and people consider it as a symbol of carrying their genes. It's a matter of shame both for the doctors and parents who are involved in this crime in aborting female sex before taking birth or in womb of to be mother.

Several religious, social, financial and emotional reasons all together leads female foeticide in country like India.

Some reasons for female foeticide are :-

1. Dowry system which has been prevalent in our society and has become the integral part of marriage ceremony. The proliferation and advancement in the field of science technology has led to this type of abuse.
2. Lack of financial return from female child.
3. This is a pride issue in society for the parents to have a boy in the family.
4. Some doctors are also involved in heinous crime for money making.
5. Poverty, illiteracy in society are significant reasons for this issue.

Female – foeticide is the major issue as far as the social and gender discrimination is concerned which leading a social imbalance in society especially in the state like Bihar where parents prefer male child and for this purpose they are taking the help of medical science. On the

other hand they are also abusing the mother for birth of female child. It is due to unawareness of society towards genetic engineering.

Recent researches done in the rural and urban areas of Patna shows that female – foeticide is trending towards a contagious disease. The menace now threatens to create a demographic imbalance.

Addressing a seminar on 'Gender Bias Forcing on Female-Foeticide and Intanticide organised by Bihar Chapter's Indian Medical Association (IMA) union health minister C.P. Thakur. It was also concluded that it might become a dangerous social issue in the coming future.

Medical termination of pregnancy act of 1971, was the first act passed for making abortion legal in most states, under acceptable major reasons such as medical under risk of life of mother and rape. With increasing availability of sex screening technologies in India, which ultimately declined female sex ratio. In 1994, Pre – natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PNDT) was Pre-natal Diagnostic Technique Act to control the problem.

Many slogans to save the girls child is also applauded everywhere but not having too much impact on society.

1. Save the girl save the nation!
2. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao!
3. Say no to female – foeticide.
4. Female – foeticide a crime.

Review of Literature

Men and Women are complementary to the creation of society. "Gender is an essential characteristic of individual. Female – foeticide is unethical and illegal practice in India. In the operation of societal activities of one and inactiveness of one definitely deter the normal rhythm of life. This research is conducted to analyse the status of women in different ages, what and how was the role of women in human development and at which point this caused imbalance in society. And also upto what extent it hampered. Historically female foeticide has been in existence since long the status of women in India shows many ups and downs. In the VEDIC Age (1500 - 1000) BC, they were worshipped as goddesses. In the muslim age (1026-1756) AD their status suffered a sharp decline and in the British regime they were looked down upon as 'slaves of slaves'. The main purpose of this researches are to acquire an understanding of the status of women in ancient India.

Ancient Indian Vedic texts gave importance to the worship of goddesses. A woman was referred to an "saamraajini" the run or the mistress of the home.

Prehistoric Era

In ancient India women were treated with respect and dignity. Status of women in the era was not only equal but superior to men. Women in the Indian society enjoyed high status in society and there condition was good.

Vedic Age

The vedic women had economic freedom some women were engaged in teaching work. Spinning and weaving of clothes were done at home.

Women participated in each and every activity with their husbands. Women even participated in religious discourse. The status of women improved a little during the Buddhist period though there was no tremendous change. The role of women in Ancient Indian Literature is immense. Ancient India had many learned ladies. The medieval period provide to be highly disappointing.

According to the 2001 census, the sex ratio in India is 933 female per 1000 males. Although there is a marginal improvement from 1991 census where it was 927, it continuous to be significantly adverse towards women. The United Nation has passed serious concern about the situation. The long standing tradition of son preference, coupled with medical technology give rise to Female foeticide at increasing rate. The misuse of technology simply reinforces the secondary status given to girl child in such a way that they are culled out even before they are born.

1. UNICEF is committed to protecting every child from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination.
2. The government would declare January 24, 2010 as the national girl child day with a focus on targeting the scourges of Female foeticide, domestic violence and malnutrition.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the research presented :-

1. Identifying cultural, social and psychological factors involved in female foeticide mentality.
2. Analyse the traditional cultural value of female foeticide (women prestige of house) and the correlation between female foeticide mentality.
3. Analyse the correlation between changing attitude (positive/negative) with that of the female foeticide.
4. Examining the relationship between the oppression of crimes against women and the trend towards female foeticide.

Method used for the study

Differents methods have been used in conducting the research to know the attitude of people living in rural and urban areas towards female foeticide.

Sampling

In this sample total 500 population was taken including (250 female and 250 male). In the present research different community from rural and urban areas of Patna district taken as a sample to conduct the survey. The main criteria in the selection of the data was the combination of different community, different age group married and unmarried, rural and urban population of Patna district. Selection of data was done randomly. In the selection of sample of women and men was done on different socio-economic educational levels so that individuals of different educational and economic levels get fair representation.

Measuring Scale and F.I.T

F.I.T Questionnaire was used to analyse the study mindset of population sample for this study towards female foeticide. The questionnaire used for this study was developed by Jha K and Sinha G

(1995). The purpose of the questionnaire on the specific issues related to female foeticide can be determined on the basis of selected response from the samples. Discriminative index of various phases of the F.I.T questionnaire was examined through Chi-square (χ^2) test.

Data Collection Method

During the data collection respondents were also approached individually and elsewhere collectively or in group as per requirement. The instructions mentioned in the questionnaire were read well before the research started. If it is found difficult for the respondents to understand the usability then the instructions were explained repeatedly. Particularly the rural areas and untrained were specially assisted so that is can clearly express their views (responses) to different items of the questionnaire. Sometimes when the respondents showed lack of interest for the itmes of the questionnaire or din't respond seriously such reactions or responses were not added in the data. Responses obtained by the researches from the items of the questionnaire were calculated into mean of data, mean deviation, t-ratio, Chi-square and responses were also collected in percentage.

Conclusion

It should be a matter of grace for the Indian society, to have a girl child. The research shows the mindset of people living in rural and urban areas of Patna district which show the typical mindset of Patriarchal society which leads a horrible practice like female foeticide.

Escalating demands of dowry was cited the main reason for it. Girls are supposed to be the consumer rather than produces and indeed a bad investment for the family. It may lead to polyandry, violence against woman and bad moral values for society.

Many of the respondents from the urban areas suggested legislative measures should be stringently implemented to prevent female foeticide.

Female foeticide should be strictly banned all over the world for the sake of humanity and life. It should be transformed from curse to boon to have girl child. Technologies must sensitize people rather helping in practicing this crime.

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