

Female Infanticides and Foeticides: A Cognizance or an Ignorance

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Abstract--- Objective: *The violence against women is a great concern in India. Even though technology is advancing at a great rate by which we are able to fight rare diseases, we are still not able to cure the problem of female foeticide and infanticide. People are misusing technology for the determination of the gender of the foetus. A change in law is needed and stricter actions needs to be taken against people committing such crime.*

Method: *A survey through questionnaire was conducted using which Primary Data was collected. Responses from two hundred and three married females were collected and the analysis of this data was done using SPSS and Tableau.*

Results: *The study depicts the major reasons behind female foeticide and infanticide being performed as people prefer having a male child over female. Also, the society feels that empowering and educating a woman will help in improving the situation.*

Conclusions: *The study implies female foeticide and infanticide is a major problem in India. Ultrasonography was designed to keep a check on the mother's health but, people have been using it illegally to determine the gender of the foetus. The paper will help women understand the negative effects of the act on them and the society as a whole. Also, the government should bring out new plans for betterment of women.*

Keywords--- *Female Foeticide and Infanticide, Female Child, Male Child, Society, Women.*

I. INTRODUCTION

A woman is said to have a good mental capacity, has equal right to participate in all the activities of a man, has the right to freedom and said to be a companion as well as a support of a man. She has the right to live equally like a man.

Foeticide or feticide is the act of killing a foetus. In a legal context, it is a criminal act referring to the deliberate killing of a foetus inside the womb of a pregnant woman (Khatun & Islam, 2014). The act of killing a child within a year of birth is known as Infanticide. Foeticide takes place inside the mother's womb that is before the child is born, whereas infanticide takes place after the child is born.

While this cruel practice has been declared illegal and punishable, it continues to take place in different parts of India where families are still entangled in the belief that the female child is inferior to the male child (Leichtentritt & Shamir, 2017).

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In places where the people cannot afford an illegal ultrasound test, they practice the heinous crimes of killing the foetus deliberately after it is born, and where the people have access to an illegal pre-natal gender determination, they discard the foetus before it is born, in case it turns out to be a female.

As per female foeticide and infanticide acts, female infanticide, abandoning a girl child immediately after birth, not reporting of female births and selective sex abortion lead to higher death rates (Raju, 2014). Traditionally these were the methods used to regulate the number of female children in a family. Determining the sex of the foetus before birth and gender selective abortion have been reported to be increasing in other parts of the world too (Shah et al., 2018).

As time passes by, the urge to have a boy increases and parents still want girl child to be killed in the womb of mother rather than bringing her to the world and then abandoning her. Even when the fertility declines, the parents do everything possible to ensure the birth of a male child and abort the female foetuses through prenatal sex determination rather than infanticide or abandoning the baby girl after birth. Parents prefer the female infanticide even if the sex ratio of female decreases (Qian, 2018).

Table 1: Worldwide Ranking of the difference in Sex Ratio

<i>Name of the country</i>	<i>Sex ratio at birth</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Liechtenstein	126 males/100 females	1
China	115 males/100 female	2
Armenia	113 males/100 females	3
India	112 males/100 females	4
Azerbaijan	111 males/100 females	5
Viet Nam	111 males/100 females	5
Albania	110 males/ 100 females	6
Georgia	108 males/100 females	7
South Korea	107 males/100 females	8
Tunisia	107 males/ 100 females	8
Nigeria	106 males/ 100 female	9
Pakistan	105 males/100 females	10

Source: CIA World Fact Book

Females are an important part of the society and it is high time that people are made aware of the problem of female foeticide and infanticide (Singh & Ghosh, 2018). In Indian society, it is clearly evident that a male child and female child are treated differently.

In this paper we will see some reports that shows how a male and a female are treated differently and also tell us the various factors that affect female infanticide and foeticide and also show the consequences that these practices have on the society as a whole and also on individuals. Through this study we have also identified few solutions or laws to these problems and how the society can change and benefit from it.

The problem of female infanticide and foeticide exists throughout the world but, it is mainly seen in India because of the traditional belief of the people. Female infanticide and foeticide were really high during the earlier times. With changing time people are becoming more literate but still the problem exists. The amount of money

invested in a girl's education or the amount of salary received by them is much lower than that of a male.

In India as the literacy rate is still pretty low and most of the people are not able to earn decent salary, they do not prefer to have a girl child in their family. Girl child is considered as a burden on the families because the families have to pay dowry for their marriage. They feel that the male child will be able to help them financially in course of time. These reasons lead to such kind of malpractices.

Table 2: Literacy Rates (In Percentage)

<i>Persons</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Census year</i>
18.3	8.9	27.2	1951
28.3	15.4	40.4	1961
34.5	22	46	1971
43.6	29.8	56.4	1981
52.2	39.3	64.1	1991
64.8	53.7	75.3	2001
73	64.6	80.9	2011

1951-1971: Aged group 5 and above, 1981-2011: Aged group 7 and above

Source: Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (website: <http://censusindia.gov.in/>)

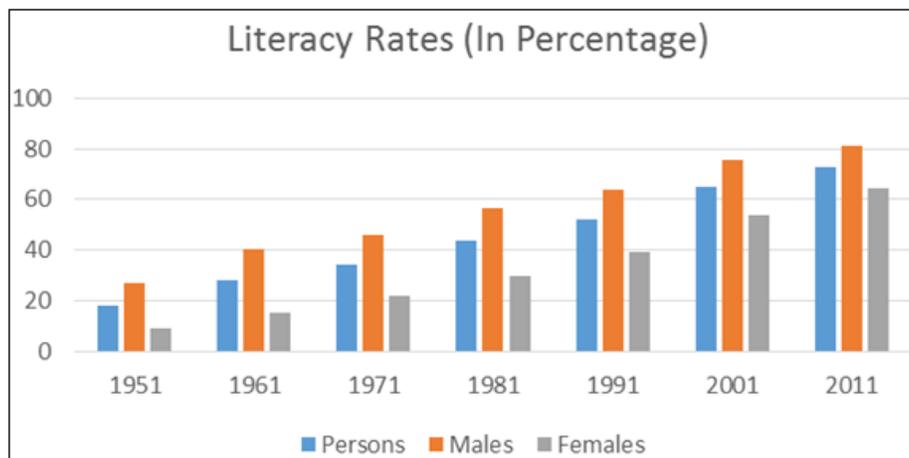


Figure 1: Literacy Rates (In Percentage)

With the advancement of medical technology, while on one hand we are able to fight the rarest of rare diseases, on the other hand we are cursed with the social evils surrounding the birth of a female child in the family. More than laws, it is more important to change the mindset of the patriarchal society of preserving the name of the family and depending upon the son as a bread-earner.

Although there are laws in place like the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994, Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, which criminalizes the act of feticide, but the number of judgements taken against people performing such act is surprisingly low as compared to the threat presented by the criminal act. It is necessary to establish our efforts by empowering women, providing education and organizing campaigns to educate people and get rid of social stigmas which contaminate the society.

Table 3: Male and Female Gross Enrolment Ratio

Higher Education 18-23 years			(IX-XII) 14-17 years			Senior Secondary (XI-XII) 16-17 years			Secondary (IX-X) 14-15 years			Level/Year
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
9.3	6.7	8.1	38.2	27.7	33.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2001-02
10.3	7.5	9	41.3	33.2	37.5	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2002-03
10.6	7.7	9.2	42.9	34.3	38.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2003-04
11.6	8.2	10	44.3	35.1	39.9	30.8	24.5	27.8	57.4	45.3	51.7	2004-05
13.5	9.4	11.6	44.6	35.8	40.4	31.4	25.2	28.5	57.6	46.2	52.2	2005-06
14.5	10	12.4	45	36.8	41.1	31.5	26.1	28.9	58.6	47.4	53.5	2006-07
15.2	10.7	13.1	49.4	41.9	45.8	36.3	30.4	33.5	62.6	53.2	58.2	2007-08
15.8	11.4	13.7	51	43.5	47.4	37.5	31.6	34.5	64.8	55.5	60.4	2008-09
17.1	12.7	15	52.5	46.1	49.4	38.5	33.5	36.1	66.7	58.7	62.9	2009-10
20.8	17.9	19.4	55.7	48.5	52.2	42.3	36.2	39.4	69.2	60.9	65.2	2010-11
22.1	19.4	20.8	58.8	54.5	56.8	47.6	43.9	45.9	69	63.9	66.6	2011-12
22.7	20.1	21.5	57	56.5	56.8	41.9	39.5	40.8	69.6	67	68.1	2012-13*
23.9	22	23	62.5	62.6	62.5	52.8	51.6	52.2	76.8	76.5	76.6	2013-14*
25.3	23.2	24.3	64.9	65.8	65.3	54.6	53.8	54.2	78.1	78.9	78.5	2014-15*

For School Education: - (i) figure from 2001-02 to 2011-12: Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (website: <http://mhrd.gov.in/statist>)

(ii) figure for 2012-13 & 2014-15: National University of Educational Planning & Administration, New Delhi (website: <http://dise.in/>)

*Figures related to School Education are provisional. For Higher Education:- Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India (website: <http://mhrd.gov.in/statist>).

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Women have to suffer from various forms of violence in all societies across the world. Among them, gender selective violence is one which has very harmful effects (Iyer, 2014). Female infanticide and foeticide are inherent problem in the Indian society which is a violation of the basic right to life of a foetus (Patel, 2013). "Factors that are affecting female infanticide and foeticide" is a very vital issue for the whole society. The sex ratio has been continuously decreasing and no matter what law and regulations have been implemented, none of them are able to control this major problem of killing the girl child before or after birth. Women are considered the weaker sex of the society but that does not entail that they should be curbed from their rights. Women should stand up, fight and get

what they want for themselves. Earlier women were worshipped as goddesses but with the changing time their status has underwent a sharp decline. Now they are looked down upon as slaves (Garg & Nath, 2008). Due to centuries of repression and ill treatment, inferiority complex has become second nature for most of the women. A woman's worst enemy is another woman herself. Most female foeticide and infanticide happen with the approval of the mother. Most would be mothers do it as a sense of duty towards the family while others take the initiative themselves (Reshma, 2015). Discrimination is prevalent not just as foeticide and infanticide but it is a common phenomenon in the work environment as well. It can be seen that mostly in a workplace, important and authoritative positions are held by men. In all the sectors, men are paid a higher wage or salary as compared to women.

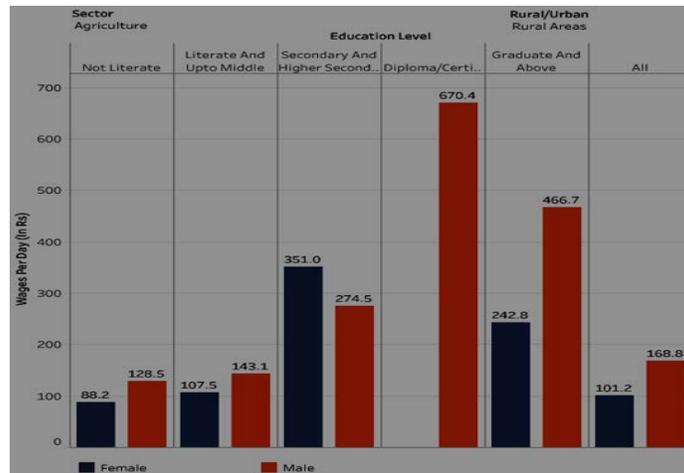


Figure 2: Per Day Wage for Females and Males in Agriculture Sector in Rural Area

Source: Men and Women in 2017, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation

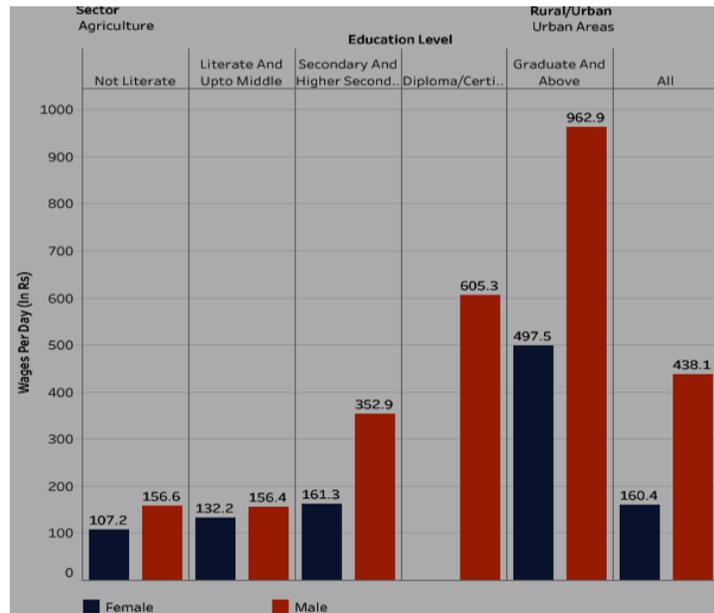


Figure 3: Per Day Wage for Females and Males in Agriculture sector in Urban Area

Source: Men and Women in 2017, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation

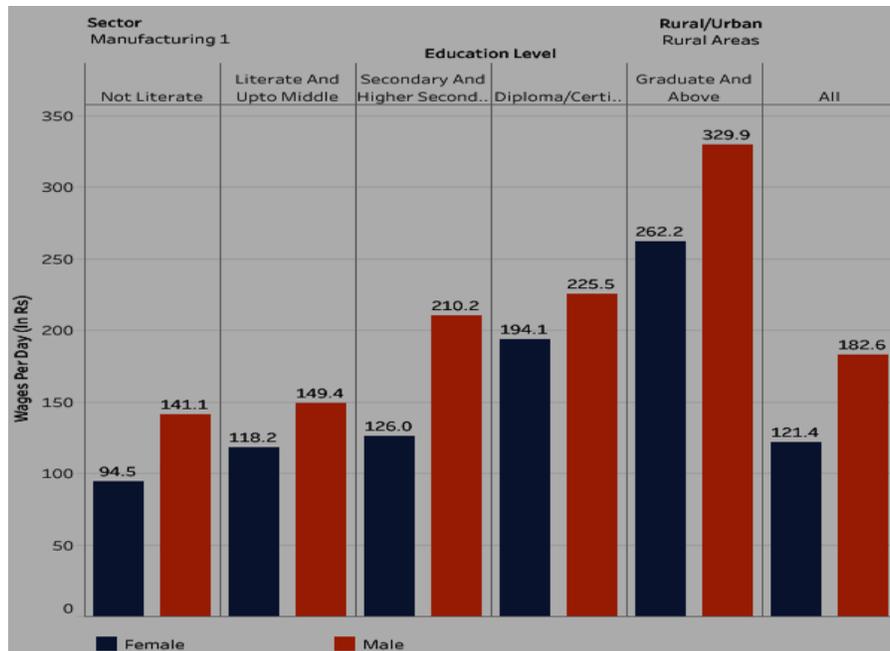


Figure 4: Per Day Wage for Females and Males in Manufacturing Sector in Rural Area

Source: Men and Women in 2017, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation

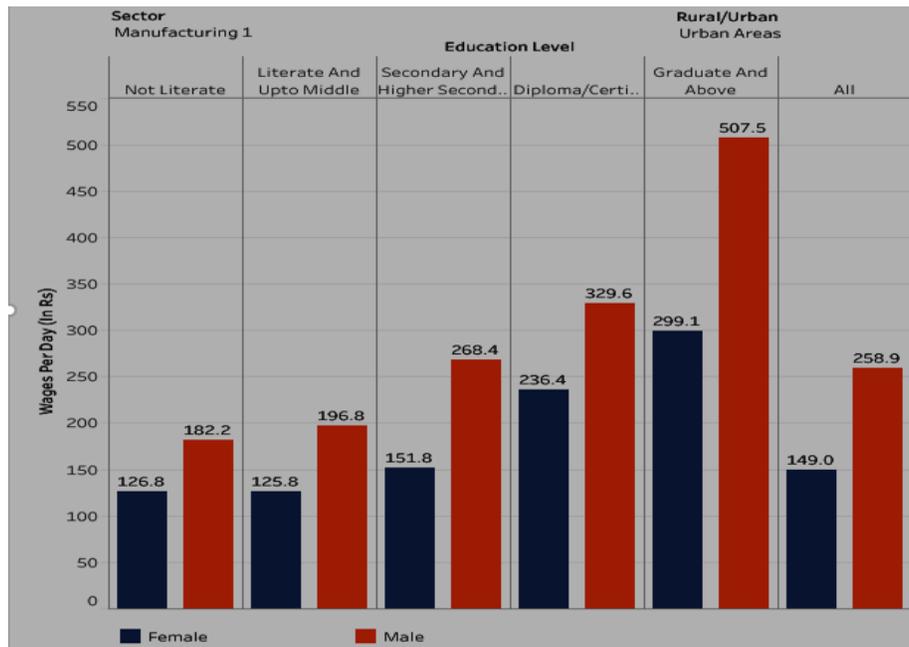


Figure 5: Per Day Wage for Females and Males in Manufacturing Sector in Urban Area

Source: Men and Women in 2017, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation

Misuse of foetal sex determination technologies like amniocentesis and ultrasonography, prevalent patriarchy and prejudice in the male dominated society, ethical blindness and gender inequality has resulted in this pathetic scenario. It was documented that the number of ultrasound machines in an area and the decline in the sex ratio have

an inverse relationship between them (Patel, 2013). A number of laws exists and also have been formed trying to bring this undesirable situation under control but, the implementation of these laws has been very casual. There are very few cases registered in the court as such act is performed behind closed doors which make it difficult to detect. Countless innocent lives would have been saved if these laws had taken stringent actions and executed accordingly.

A direct correlation can be established between the declining sex ratio and the increased accessibility of ultra sound machines. According to reports around 70% of abortions took place in Delhi after the foetus was found out to be female (Garg & Nath, 2008). The preference for a male child over a female child has always been rooted in the cultural, economic and religious sentiments of India. Parents expect their sons to earn the bread for their family and look after them during their old age. Parents feel so because they believe that the girl child will get married and not be able to support them financially. According to a report by United Nations every year 750,000 woman has to perform abortions in India per year and above 10,000 baby girls is the victim (Patel, 2013).

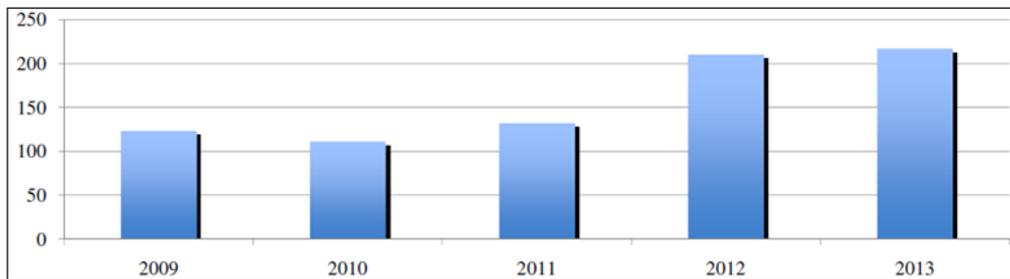


Figure 6: Number of Cases Register against Female Foeticide 2009-13

Source: NRCB Data

Table 4: Indian States Showing Number of Females in the Age Group of 0-6 Years, Per 1000 Males

Sex Ratio in 0-6 Age Group		States
Urban	Rural	
789	866	Punjab
809	884	Haryana
886	909	Rajasthan
866	917	Delhi
880	928	Uttar Pradesh
924	949	Bihar
948	955	West Bengal
927	949	Orissa
941	960	Madhya Pradesh
827	908	Gujarat
908	934	Maharashtra
958	962	Andhra Pradesh
939	951	Karnataka
951	958	Kerala
951	951	Tamil Nadu
905	934	All India

Source: Census of India

People consider a girl child as a burden on them. One of the major reasons why they do not want a girl child is because they think that in course of time the girl will get married and go to her husband's house and she would not

belong to them anymore. The girl would not carry the family name ahead and keep it going and will not be the bread earner of the family. Also having a girl child means paying a huge amount as dowry to get the girl married whereas this is not the case for getting a male child married. Women are considered as cargo after marriage, all set to be parcelled to her husband's house, while parents feel victorious for a great job done by them in getting their 'daughter' settled (Reshma, 2015). The girl child will not be earning for the family and will just be a financial burden for them. Backward thinking is not the only reason for such crime. Foul Medical ethics and industrial growth are some of the other reasons.

A seemingly adverse situation arises for the family when there are 2 or 3 daughters. This category of parents usually opt for fatal sex determination and sex selective abortion. It arises mainly in the lower section of the society as they do not have enough money to get their daughters married and pay dowry. Even among families with first child as a daughter, the parents are likely to opt for sex-based abortion. All this has become easier with the fast-developing technologies. Many healing fraternities openly discuss about Female Foeticide and Infanticide. Also, outside certain clinics there are pin boards asking people pay Rs.500/- today so that they can save an expense of Rs.500000/- in the future (Reshma, 2015). Skewed sex ratio is another problem. With time, the number of girls as compared to the number of boys is declining rapidly. Throughout the years the sex ratio gap has kept on increasing.

According to field reports, the two child norms clashes with the female feticide (Bose, 2011). The most commonly accepted family formation is one son and one daughter if not both sons. An extremely unfavourable situation occurs when the family formation is both the children are daughters. This category of parents usually opts for the cruel practice of female foeticide and infanticide. Even among families with first child as a daughter, the parents are likely to opt for sex-based abortion (Raley & Bianchi, 2006). Sometimes these practices are done wilfully whereas most of the times such acts are against the wish of the mother. The females of the society take equal part in such crime and feel that it is better to kill the foetus inside the womb of the mother rather than giving birth to them and then killing or ill-treating them (Berenstein, 2018).

Motivation

Abortion is legal in India under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 up to 20 weeks. As per the law, abortion is permitted only on following grounds: (1) to save the women's life; (2) to preserve physical or mental health; (3) in case of rape or incest; (4) failure of contraceptives used by married women, and (4) for economic or social reasons (Hirve, 2004). Across the world, India is amongst those countries which have a humanistic abortion laws but, Indian women are still fighting towards the prevention of this humanistic abortion law from being misused for selective gender abortion. They are still deprived of their basic right to live. Their fear is genuine as in India, over the last twenty years, approximately 10 million female foetuses had been aborted (Iyer, 2014). This is the reason the that government enacted the Pre-Natal Diagnostics Techniques which prohibits any person performing such act from conveying the pregnant women or her relatives or anyone about the sex of the foetus by means oral communication, written communication, signs or by any other manner.

The sex ratio is continuously decreasing and the need of the hour is to look into this matter and make people aware of the seriously alarming situation (Benschop, 2003). It is said that female's biggest enemy is another female

but, it is time that females understand each other and help solve this issue. A wide change in the mind set of the people towards the status of women in the society in terms of better opportunities and facilities for health, education and economic participation is needed. All the authors of this paper are female and hence we understand and relate to the problem deeply. This practice mainly occurs in the rural part of the country where the population is not very educated and do not earn enough money to be able to bear the expenses. Our motive was to bring a change in the situations by making people aware.

III. METHODOLOGY

The data related to the awareness of the people and their perception towards female foeticide and infanticide was collected from East, West, North, South and Central regions of India. The response of two hundred and three people, belonging to various parts of India, was taken. Around ninety five percent of the respondents were women and five percent were men belonging to various economic and cultural backgrounds. A questionnaire was developed for the purpose of the study. Questions related to the respondent's demographic details, their awareness about female foeticide and infanticide, the impact of female foeticide and infanticide on women's health and the economy and the reasons behind such act were included in the questionnaire. The questionnaire was pre-tested and corrected before getting responses from people. A five point rating scale was used for the responses. Majorly responses from married women was taken for the study but, a few responses from married men and single women were also taken.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The responses received from men and women were first coded and tabulated according to the scores. The questionnaire was divided in three segments namely demographic, awareness and reasons. A descriptive analysis using tableau was done for the demographic segment and a regression analysis using SPSS was done for the awareness and reasons segment. The results of the demographic analysis using tableau were as follows:

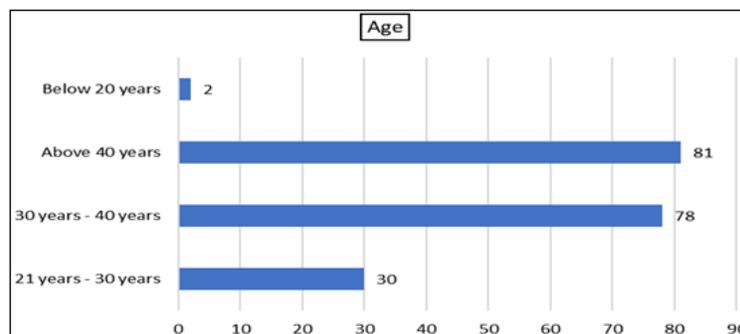


Figure 7: Age Group of the Respondents

Source: Author's Calculation

As per the survey conducted by us, 50% of the people performed the act of female infanticide and foeticide because they preferred a male child. The top 3 reasons why people prefer male child over a female child are; their orthodox belief that sons are the bread earners for the family, they preserve the name of the family and also provide support during old age. Over 25% of the women knew someone who have performed foeticide/infanticide and among them 15% performed the act because of preference for a male child. Out of the two hundred and three

responses received, 15% of the women have a female child while 25% of the women have one male and one female child. When asked if they would support a female child as their successor, 25% of the respondents agreed strongly to the proposition.

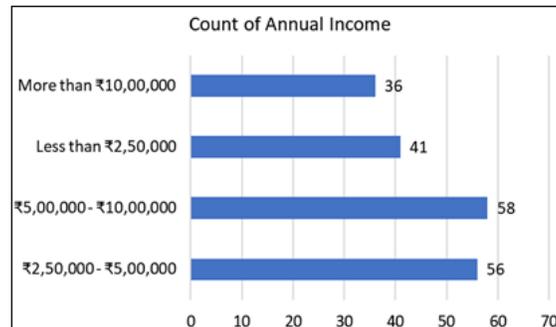


Figure 8: Annual Income of the Respondents

Source: Author's Calculation

As per the survey, majority of the respondents belonged to the income group of Rs.50,000-Rs.1,00,000 per annum. Women are paid a lower salary as compare to men. Around 50% of respondents believe that empowering women will reduce the problem of female infanticide and foeticide. Also, 40% of the respondents have pointed out that providing better education to female will help reduce the problem. Though 90% of the people have responded positively towards educating both male and female child if they have lack of funds, the economic reports does not depict the same. 33% of the people have strongly agreed to the fact that foeticide/infanticide is a good way of balancing the family and controlling the population.

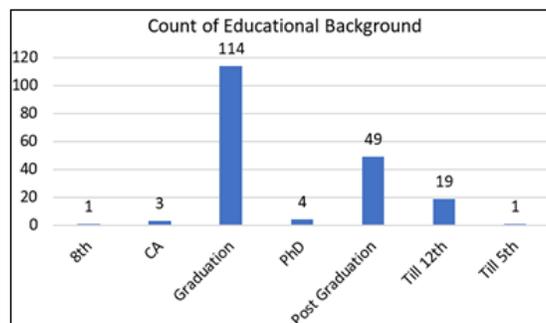


Figure 9: Educational Background of the Respondents

Source: Author's Calculation

Even though 88% of the respondents are either graduates or post graduates as per the survey, 44% agreed to the statement that highly educated and rich people encourage female foeticide/ infanticide. Out of this, 60% of the respondents consider that women are the weaker sex of the society and joint family system has promoted favouritism towards male child. Though 83% of the respondents replied that they support a female child as their successor, the same is quite not visible in the Indian society. People still hesitate on making the female child their successor. Out of the total lot, only 5% of the respondents underwent a gender test during their pregnancy while 25% of them did not want to disclose the fact.

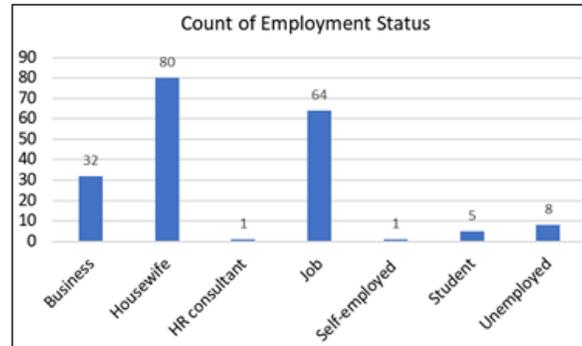


Figure 10: Employment Status of the Respondents

Source: Author's Calculation

From the responses received, 47% of the respondents are housewives or unemployed. 80% of these women feel that empowering women should help improve the situation. Almost 70% of the housewives still believe that it is a male child who earns for the family, carries ahead the family name and also provides old age support to them. Female child will get married in course of time and no longer be a part of their family. Also, 28% of the respondents believe that it is better to undergo a gender test during pregnancy and perform the act of female foeticide/infanticide. People have this thought because they feel it is better to kill the female child inside the mother's womb rather than ill-treating her later in life.

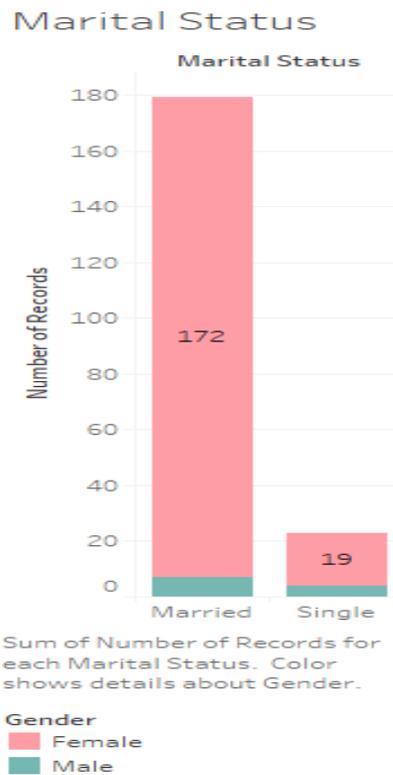


Figure 11: Marital Status of the Respondents

Source: Author's Calculation

Majority of the responses received are from married women, majority of them being housewives. Around 50% of the housewives have two children and among them one is a female child. 82% of housewives hold the opinion that empowering the girl child will help reduce the instances of female foeticides and infanticides yet it is seen that females are deprived of education. About 68% of job holders believe that joint family system has promoted the favouritism towards male child.

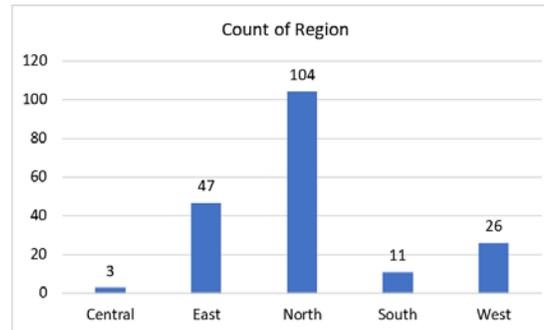


Figure 12: Residential Area of the Respondents

Source: Author's Calculation

As per the responses received, majority of the respondents are from the northern region of India. In all studies it has been found that Uttar Pradesh has recorded the maximum number of foeticides/infanticides. In some remote districts, people are traditionally accustomed to believe that women are a burden upon the family. They look forward to sons for earning bread for the family and taking care of them during old-age.

The regression analysis using SPSS was as follows:

While doing the regression analysis, we had two dependent variables from our questionnaire. The dependent variables were 'I know people who have performed female foeticide/infanticide' and 'Did you do a gender test during your pregnancy?'. The model summary from the two dependent variable and taking the awareness segment as independent variable was as follows:

Table 5: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.443 ^a	.196	.145	1.420	.196	3.850	12	189	.000
2	.257 ^a	.066	.007	1.488	.066	1.112	12	189	.352

Model 1: Dependent Variable: I know people who have performed female foeticide/ Infanticide

Model 2: Dependent Variable: Did you do a gender test during your pregnancy?

Source: Authors calculation

From the above table, we can see that the value of R Square for model 1 is 0.196 and for model 2 is 0.066 and the significance F change value for model 1 is 0.000 and model 2 is 0.352. The actual value for the above variables should be 0.5 and above for comprehensive models. However, for micromodels a value of 0.15 and above is also acceptable. It is quite evident that the significance of model 1 is more as compared to model 2. The value of model 1

is closer to the acceptable value. The dependent variable of model 1 is asking the respondents for information about others whereas the dependent variable of model 2 is asking the respondents for information about themselves. A very common behaviour is seen among people in the Indian society, that is, people are willing to share information related to others whereas, when they are asked for information about themselves, they are hesitant to share their secret. In the above model summary, it is quite visible that the model 1 gives a better result than model 2. This is so because, when asked questions about others, men and women have given their honest replies. However, when they were asked about themselves, most men and women were not willing to share the information or they lied about it. People are aware of the problem of female foeticide and infanticide existing in our society but are unwilling to share the correct information about it. Also, no one wants to get into the politics of solving the problem.

The Coefficients table gives us a greater insight on the responses received from men and women. A significance value of 0.05 is considered as a best result for the coefficients table but since we are taking micromodels a significance value of 0.1 and below is acceptable. Following is the coefficient table showing results when model 1, that is, 'I know people who have performed female foeticide/infanticide' was taken as the dependent variable and the independent variable are questions related to how aware they are of such act.

Table 6: Regression Analysis of Awareness Factor

<i>Model</i>	<i>Unstandardized Coefficients</i>		<i>Standardized Coefficients</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>B</i>	<i>Std. Error</i>	<i>Beta</i>		
(Constant)	1.056	.887		1.191	.235
I am aware of the problem of Female Foeticide and Infanticide	.213	.086	.170	2.472	.014
Do you agree that females actively participate in performing such acts?	.114	.082	.102	1.398	.164
Do you have kids?	.015	.070	.015	.215	.830
I think that it is better to kill the female baby inside the womb than to be ill-treated later	.103	.079	.094	1.304	.194
I feel that highly educated and rich people encourage Female Foeticide/ Infanticide	.110	.091	.090	1.210	.228
Female Foeticide have negative effect on women's health	-.381	.116	-.262	-3.296	.001
Female Foeticide/ Infanticide affects the mental health of other family members too	.158	.091	.165	1.734	.085
I think that female foeticide/ infanticide is a good method of balancing the family and controlling population	.206	.128	.126	1.606	.110
Women are considered as weaker sex of the society	-.020	.081	-.018	-.248	.804
Educating a girl child will improve the situation of female foeticide/ infanticide	.065	.123	.048	.532	.596
I feel women empowerment will reduce female foeticide/ infanticide	.031	.130	.022	.239	.812
I feel advanced technology is more responsible for female foeticide/ infanticide	-.035	.082	-.033	-.424	.672
Dependent Variable: I know people who have performed female foeticide/ Infanticide					
Source: Authors Calculation					

From the above Table 6, we can see that the most significant and relevant question to which the most favourable/ common answer received was 'Female Foeticide/Infanticide have negative effect on women's health'. Its

significance value is 0.001 which means that people are aware that female foeticide and infanticide affects women's health and hence should not be performed. Yet around 15% of our respondents know people who have performed this act and the reason behind it being their preference of having a male child. Out of these people, many performed this act purposefully bringing us to the conclusion that women's actively take part in such act.

The next significant question was 'I am aware of the problem of Female Foeticide and Infanticide'. Its significance value is 0.014, that is, out of the two hundred and three respondents, around 52.7% of them are aware of the problem of female foeticide and infanticide whereas 8.6% do not know anything about it. Out of this, around 14% respondents agreed that they know people who have performed such act but some of them did not want to disclose it. Even after being aware of such brutal practice, not much measures have been taken to prevent this act from happening.

The third most significant question was 'Female Foeticide/ Infanticide affects the mental health of other family members too'. Its significance value is 0.085. People agreed to this question but still a majority of these practices happening due to pressure from the family members. The older generation are still orthodox and believe that only a male child can earn for the family and carry the family name forward. They still consider women as a burden and hence, joint family system encourages such act.

A few less relevant or significant questions as compared to the top three are that people feel women take active part in performing such act and they also think that it is better to kill the baby inside womb than to be ill-treated later. It is mainly because of family pressure that women perform such act. This shows us that women's biggest enemy is another woman only.

The least significant questions were 'Do you have kids?' and 'I feel women empowerment will reduce female foeticide /infanticide'. Majority of the respondents were married yet did not have kids. When they were asked if they were aware of the problem of female foeticide and infanticide existing in our society since ages, they all agreed that they were aware. Even after being aware of the critical situation in our country, where the skewed sex ration is continuously decreasing, people still felt that empowering women would not be an appropriate solution to this rising problem.

It can be concluded that people in India are aware of the problem of female foeticide and infanticide. They also realize that such act affects the health of a women and the mental health of other family members too yet do not take appropriate actions or a stand against it. Such act has been performed in our society from a very long time but, people are more aware about it now, as compared to they were before. The awareness has been spread over time but still people are hesitant to come out and act towards it.

Women should be made stronger and more confident so that they can come out and fight for their rights. Fight for their basic right to live. Till the time women do not fight for their own right, people will keep considering them as the weaker sex of the society.

Below is the coefficients table showing results when model 2, that is, 'Did you do a gender test during your pregnancy?' was taken as the dependent variable and the independent variable remains the same as above.

Table 7: Regression Analysis of Awareness factor on Gender Test

<i>Model</i>	<i>Unstandardized Coefficients</i>		<i>Standardized Coefficients</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
	<i>B</i>	<i>Std. Error</i>	<i>Beta</i>		
(Constant)	1.219	.929		1.312	.191
I am aware of the problem of Female Foeticide and Infanticide	-.017	.090	-.014	-.188	.851
Do you agree that females actively participate in performing such acts?	.119	.086	.109	1.393	.165
Do you have kids?	.160	.073	.164	2.187	.030
I think that it is better to kill the female baby inside the womb than to be ill-treated later	-.034	.083	-.032	-.408	.683
I feel that highly educated and rich people encourage Female Foeticide/ Infanticide	.079	.095	.067	.830	.408
Female Foeticide have negative effect on women's health	-.110	.121	-.078	-.910	.364
Female Foeticide/ Infanticide affects the mental health of other family members too	-.131	.095	-.141	-1.376	.170
I think that female foeticide/ infanticide is a good method of balancing the family and controlling population	-.022	.134	-.014	-.163	.871
Women are considered as weaker sex of the society	.017	.085	.016	.202	.840
Educating a girl child will improve the situation of female foeticide/ infanticide	.007	.129	.006	.057	.954
I feel women empowerment will reduce female foeticide/ infanticide	.070	.136	.050	.512	.609
I feel advanced technology is more responsible for female foeticide/ infanticide	-.007	.086	-.007	-.079	.937
Dependent Variable: Did you do a gender test during your pregnancy? Source: Authors Calculation					

From the above table we can see that the most significant and relevant question to which the most favourable/common answer received was 'Do you have kids?' Its significance value is 0.030 which means that the respondents have kids. The most preferable family formation was two kids, one being male and the other female or both males. Only around 17% of the people who have kids have two or more female child. The ones who have kids do not want to disclose whether they did a gender test during their pregnancy or not.

A few less relevant or significant questions are that people feel women take active part in performing such act and it affects the mental health of the other family members too. This means that people think women do not take active part, that is, they are forced to perform this brutal act. Whereas, in the above analysis we saw that people respond oppositely. All the responses received for the rest of the questions do not hold any significance when people are asked to answer about themselves.

The least significant question was 'Educating a girl child will improve the situation of female foeticide/infanticide. Its significance value is 0.954. This means that people feel this is not true. Educating a girl child is not important and will bring in no change in the society.

It is just like wasting your money as they treat girls as someone else's wealth. Girls get married and go to her husband's house and the parents breathe a sigh of relief for a mission accomplished in getting her married. A conclusion that can be drawn from this regression analysis is that maybe people did not want to disclose whether

they have girl child or not as they do not believe in educating them. People still consider girl child as a burden on them and try to save money for their marriage and pay it as dowry.

From both the regression analysis test, it is clearly established that when people are asked to disclose information about others they tend to answer openly. But, when they are asked to disclose information about themselves, they are very much hesitant to disclose their secret. People in the Indian society are aware of the problem of female foeticide and infanticide and also realize that such an act causes harm to the women as well as the other family members. Even after being aware of all the negatives, people still go for doing gender test. People are also aware that getting a gender test done is ill legal in India and this is also one reason why they hesitate to disclose the information related to them.

In another regression analysis with two dependent variables, same as above, were taken and the independent variables were the reasons for which female foeticide and infanticide takes place in India.

Table 8: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.252 ^a	.063	.044	1.501	.063	3.338	4	197	.011
2	.223 ^a	.050	.030	1.470	.050	2.573	4	197	.039

Model 1: Dependent Variable: I know people who have performed Female Foeticide/Infanticide

Model 2: Dependent Variable: Did you do a gender test during your pregnancy?

Source: Authors calculation

From the above Model Summary, we see that the value of R square for Model 1 is 0.063 and for Model 2 is 0.050. the value of Significance F change for Model 1 is 0.011 and Model 2 is 0.039. As mentioned above, the value should be 0.15 and above. It is quite visible from the table the results are not very positive. Even in this table, if we compare the values of Model 1 and Model 2, Model 1 gives a better result. The society is willing to share information about why someone else performed such act but, it is not willing to share information about themselves.

The Coefficients table for the same is as follow:

Table 9: Regression Analysis of Reasons for Female Infanticides and Foeticides

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	3.447	.641		5.379	.000
	I prefer male child because	.054	.070	.055	.772	.441
	If you have lack of funds, whom would you educate?	-.435	.131	-.260	-3.318	.001
	Do you support a female child as your successor as per law?	.067	.128	.042	.525	.600
	Joint family system has promoted the favouritism for male child	-.056	.087	-.045	-.646	.519

Dependent Variable: I know people who have performed female foeticide/ Infanticide
 Source: Authors Calculation

From the above table we can see that there was one dependent variable and few independent variables in the data. The dependent variable was “I know people who have performed female foeticide/Infanticide”. The independent variables were the reasons for performing Female Infanticide and Foeticide.

After running the Regression Test, it is observed that the most significant and relevant question from the independent variables was “If you have lack of funds whom would you educate”? This is a major reason why people perform this act. Its significance value is 0.001, which means that if people have lack of funds they would prefer educating the female child or both male and female child but, on the contrast, the female literacy rate is very low in India.

The society considers female as a burden on them and hence do not want to spend on their education. Rather they deprive a female child of its basic right to live by killing her before or just after she is born. This shows the nature of the society. People say something but do not perform the same. The reasons behind the preference for male a child was the male child will provide old age support to them whereas a female child will get married and will be sent to her husband’s house. Few believe that the male child maintains the traditions of the family and is the only bread earner of the family.

Joint family system is another reason that promotes favouritism towards a male child. The older generation had and still have a very stereotypical and orthodox mind set. They believe that the male child can only be the earning member of the family and the one who will carry forward the family name. They do not even accept a female child as their successor.

The least significant or the most insignificant question from the above independent variables was “Do you support female child as your successor”? For this, the significance value is 0.600. This shows the general preference for girl child as successor but the same scenario is not seen in reality. If this would have been the case, then the problem of female foeticide and infanticide would not have existed in India. Thus, this makes the question the most insignificant because the respondents have not answered what they actually think and believe in.

The conclusion from the above analysis is that the lack of funds being the most common and most significant reason behind this act which leads to lack of education and which ultimately blinds people to understand the real worth of females. The per capita income of people in India has improved over the last few years as well as due to price hike. People need to invest more in the education of their child, be it a girl or a boy. Although the government has made education free still people do not send their girl child to the school because they consider their male child as the earning hands for the family who will help to bring the bread and butter for the family.

Also, they have a mindset that women are made only for doing household work and hence, education is not important for them. Some people who are highly educated and are rich also perform such act because they think women as the burden. They have to pay the dowry for her marriage and raising a female child in the country where women are not safe at all have also become a reason for Female Foeticide and Infanticide. In the second case where the dependent variable was “Did you do a gender test during your pregnancy?” and the independent variables are the same as in the above case. The Coefficient table for the same is as follow:

Table 10: Regression Analysis of Reasons for Gender Test

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	2.959	.628		4.715	.000
	I prefer male child because	.046	.068	.048	.673	.502
	If you have lack of funds, whom would you educate?	-.229	.128	-.141	-1.783	.076
	Do you support a female child as your successor as per law?	-.185	.125	-.118	-1.477	.141
	Joint family system has promoted the favouritism for male child	.064	.085	.053	.750	.454
Dependent Variable: Did you do a gender test during your pregnancy?						
Source: Authors Calculation						

From the table we can see that the most significant and relevant independent variable is “If you have lack of funds, whom would you educate”? The significance value for this is 0.076 which is the highest in this table. The most significant value in this case also shows that the reason is lack of funds only but in both the cases the significant value differs a lot. This shows that people are more comfortable talking about others rather than themselves.

The second most significant variable is “Do you support female child as your successor”? The significance value for this is 0.141. This question was most insignificant when we talked about other people in case one but this is the second most significant question in this case. This shows that people respond correctly to this when asked about themselves rather than asking about someone else.

The third most significant variable in this case is “Joint family system have promoted the favouritism of male child”. Its significance value is 0.454. This question has a better significance value in this case as compared to case one. The reason can be that individuals might have experienced this.

The most insignificant variable in this case is “I prefer male child because”. The significance value is 0.502 which was 0.441 in case one. This shows that when it comes to the respondents themselves, they do not want to tell the correct reason as to why they prefer a male child over female child. In this case, almost everybody said that they think both are equal which makes this question irrelevant and insignificant.

The overall significance values of the different variables were better in case one where the dependent variable is about others. The reason behind this could be that people do not want to disclose how they actually think about this act.

V. CONCLUSION

India is a country where people blindly believe and worship god. Here, it is said and believed that females are a form of god. But, the same is not visible by their actions. Female foeticide and infanticide are a rising problem of our society. The awareness regarding this act has increased over time but still people perform such acts due to various reasons like preference for a male child, men provide old age support, they are the bread earner and more. People know that performing this act is illegal and if they disclose such information, they might fall in trouble. A questionnaire was developed and primary data was collected. People were comfortable in sharing information as

long as it was related to someone else. As soon as they were asked about themselves, they were not very open about their answers. This can be seen through our questionnaire and also the analysis that have been made. People consider women as the weaker sex of the society but it is time that they understand the importance of women in our society. Otherwise there will be days when it will be difficult to find a girl for marriage for that instance. There will be no women left to give birth to sons. Female foeticide and infanticide should be abolished by changing the mindset of parents and society. Those who violate the rights of female, they should be punished strictly. There have been laws for this act but none of them have been effective enough. A change in the law is needed and the law should be made stricter. Awareness programmes should be set up throughout the country to prevent female foeticide and infanticide. Just the enforcement of law will not help in changing the situation. Women need to be stronger and learn to stand for their own rights. The society needs to accept that women are no less than men.

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