

**A STUDY OF ATTITUDE ON FEMALE FETICIDE OF PREGNANT WOMEN IN
BIKANER OF RAJASTHAN.****Dr. Seema Mehta¹, Aarti Acharya², Dr. Rattiram Meena^{3*} and Dr. Rekha Acharya⁴**¹Senior Demonstrator, ²Intern, ^{3*}Resident Doctor and ⁴Professor and HOD^{1,3,4}Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Sardar Patel Medical College, Bikaner.***Corresponding Author: Dr. Rattiram Meena**

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ABSTRACT

Background: Female feticide has been a big social problem in all the states of India. There is a male child preference by pregnant women including their family members. Thus this study aimed to assess attitude and awareness on female feticide. **Methods:** The present study was conducted in ANC center of Medical college Hospital, Bikaner of Rajasthan in 400 pregnant women. **Results:** Out of 400 pregnant women 42.5% had shown no gender preference, 39.5% preferred male child and 18% had preferred to have female child. Regarding awareness, 85.5% and 90% women knew that prenatal sex determination and female feticide are illegal respectively. **Conclusions:** Being the civilized citizens, it is our duty to raise voice against the declining sex ratio and killing of girl child. Being a woman it is our primary duty as well as concern to come forward to stop this menace.

KEYWORDS: Female feticide, Attitude, Awareness, Practice, Pregnant women.**INTRODUCTION**

In the age of globalization and modernization the man still follows male female discrimination. Science is a boon for man. It has increased the age of a man but the misuse of the very science in female feticide has made it a bane. Female feticide has been committed by using the modern technology. Because of the lack of education this has been practiced much in rural areas, but the worst thing is that it has been committed much even in developed districts.

Most of the factors that make people to favor a male child are social and religious in origin. With the decline in average family size and preference of male child remained the same, the population of female is showing a downward trend. The birth of female child is perceived as a curse with economic and social liability.^[1] Female feticide cuts across all sections of Indian society with no regards to caste, religion or area of living. It is practiced by the wealthy, middle and poor and in urban areas and now spreading into rural regions.^[2] Our society needs a woman, a mother for child, a wife for husband and a girl for garland greeting a political leader. It is awkward and uncivilized to think that woman to be honored and a girl to be cursed. A man needs women for his success in life, if so, it is a girl child future. This theory is not vindictive, but santanic.^[3] Female feticide is an extreme manifestation of violence against women.^[4]

On the one hand women have the equal share in works with men and the other hand heinous deed like female feticide is committed. So it is necessary to think about female feticide. It is the time to open the closed eyes and also to change mentality. Otherwise the coming generations will certainly suffer.

METHODS

The present study was conducted in Bikaner city of Rajasthan the aim of finding out the attitude, awareness towards female feticide in pregnant women. According to the 2011 census of India, the number of females/1000 males is 940, and the child sex ratio is 914. In Rajasthan it is 926, the child sex ratio (0-6 yrs) is 883 – projecting the acutely damaged sex ratio.

Thus, total of 400 pregnant women from urban and rural area of Medical college Hospital Bikaner.

RESULTS

Table: 1 Area wise distribution of attitude on gender preference and awareness on prenatal sex determination and female feticide of pregnant women.

Attitude	Variants	frequency
Gender preference	Male	158(39.5%)
	Female	72 (18%)
	No	170 (42.5%)
Prenatal sex determination is illegal	Donot known	58(14.5)
	known	342(85.5%)
Female feticides is illegal	Donot known	40(10%)
	Known	360(90%)

Table 1 shows, 42.5% of pregnant women were having no gender preference. In 70% of them, main reason found towards no preference was their first pregnancy. 39.5% women preferred to have male child because 65% of them had girl child before and 30% of them wants to have male child for the family name and 5% were having

no reason for preference of boy. 18% women preferred to have female child because of the same reason that 80% of them had male child before and of them wants to have female child for the reasons such as good luck and more caring and responsible.

Table 2: Distribution according to attitude to know about the gender of unborn and preference

Attitude	Response		
	Yes	No	Total
Curiosity about gender	370(92.5%)	30(7.5%)	400(100%)
Wish to go for prenatal sex determination	45(11.25%)	355(88.75%)	400(100%)
Prefer male child	42(93.33%)	3(6.66%)	45(100%)

Table 2 shows,92.5% pregnant women were having curiosity about gender and 11.25% pregnant women wants to go for prenatal sex determination and out of 45, 42 prefer male child.

DISCUSSION

In our study it was observed that 42.5% had no gender preference, 39.5% preferred male child and 18% preferred female child which found very close to findings of R Kansal *et al.* who reported no preference as 66%, 22.2% male and 11.8% female.^[5]

In study majority 85.5% were found to be aware of fact that prenatal sex determination is illegal and 90% knew that female feticide is illegal which found to be close to Walia A^[6] and Sharma A^[7]

CONCLUSION

Female Feticide is one of the gravest issues of the 21st century which needs to be addressed and tackled effectively by the human fraternity. Unless paid attention, Female Feticide, if being carried on at the existing rate, is bound to bring forth several social problems in the near future.

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