

INEQUALITY, FEMALE FOETICIDE AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION

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I INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of female infanticide is prevalent since time immemorial. There are evidences of millions of gender selective deaths throughout history. In the age of knowledge inequality and vulnerability is taking place in large quantity.

Female foeticide, gender discrimination and female foeticide is closely related to each other. The main reason being the desire of male child and low value associated with the birth of a female child.

The bias against female in India is related to the facts that sons are called upon to provide the income. They are the ones who do most of the work in field. In this way sons are looked to as a type of insurance. Above problem is the main culprit in all types of society. This problem is also intimately tied to the institution of dowry, in which the family of a prospective bride must pay enormous sum of money to the family in which the women would live after marriage.

Female foeticide is the act of aborting a foetus because it is female. The frequency of female foeticide is indirectly estimated from the high birth sex ratio. The natural ratio is assumed to be between 103 to 107 and any number it is considered as suggestive of female foeticide.

Female foeticide is the elimination of the girl child in the womb itself, done deliberately by mother, after the disclosure of child's gender through medical means. The child sex ratio is within the normal natural range in all eastern and southern states of India but significantly higher in certain western and north western states such as Punjab, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir. It is not only an issue in India but also has been an issue from the last 20 years in some surrounding and undeveloped countries such as China, Pakistan, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Georgia etc.,

There is a close relationship between female foeticide and gender inequality. The attitude of gender discrimination is responsible for the problem of female foeticide.

Female foeticide is a serious problem. It directly affects the human sex ratio. In this view there is a need of time to do the research, identification of causes and application plan for eradication of this problem.

To find out the defects in the act and some further suggest the remedies to make the Act effective for control to this problem.

1.1 Causes

There are many causes for existence of this social evil.

- 1) This is due to the disclosure of sex of the foetus.
- 2) This is usually for the greedy for obsession of son which done under familial pressure from the husband or the in-laws or even the woman parents.
- 3) Unplanned pregnancy is generally the reason behind abortion, which leads for killing of foetus which is generally a female one.
- 4) Dowry system
- 5) Girls are considered as financial obligation of many parents.
6. Poverty

1.2 Characteristics of female foeticide and gender discrimination

1. Killing of foetus after determination of their sex in mother's womb-murder of the girl child by using various methods.
2. Patriarchal structure of family-Stress on the male dominance in a family.
3. Fear about the dowry which is given at the time of marriage ceremony.
4. Religious superstitions-Concepts of sin and virtues, karma, moksha etc.
5. Attitude towards female in different social-cultural scenario.

II GENDER INEQUALITY

Gender equality is the measurable equal representation of women and men. Opposite gender inequality means gender inequality. Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. Though gender discrimination and sexism refers to beliefs and attitude in relation to the respective gender of a person. Such beliefs and attitudes are of a social nature and do not normally carry any legal consequences. Sex discrimination on the other hand, may have legal consequences. Socially, sexual differences have been used to justify different role for man and women.



The reality of gender inequality in India is very complex and diversified, because it is present in many ways, fields and classes like education and employment opportunities, where mostly preference given to men.

The preamble of constitution promises to secure to all its citizens justice for economic, social and political. Gender Inequalities refers to the obvious or hidden disparities among individuals based on the performance of gender. This problem in simple term is known as gender bias which in simple terms means the gender stratification or making difference between a girl and a boy i.e. a male or a female

2.1 Types of gender inequality

1. Gender inequality- This inequality indicates at the time of birth.
2. Professional or employment inequality-In organizational or management while doing the work.
3. Household inequality- family and society inequality
4. Special opportunity inequality-At the time of particular moment

2.2 Gender inequality and attitude of society

After independence, the gender inequality in India had not been emphasized so much . The current scenario reports many cases at various parts of India. For eradication and sorting out the problems, there is need to do collective efforts and work at all the levels of society.

Following efforts are essential to change the mentality on gender inequality.

1. Change the structure and framework of society regarding gender inequality.
2. Emphasis on the role of NGOs, social thinkers, sociologists and social workers.
3. Reforms and measures at Administration and political levels.
4. Educational and awareness programmes.
5. Application of different schemes and planning.
6. Strict application of legislation.
7. Opposition to old customs, traditions and superstitions.
8. Appreciate the families having only girl Child.
9. Changes at district and state level mechanism
10. Sensitization of Criminal Justice system

2.3 Following Points Must Be Implemented For Eradication Of Gender Bias And Maintain The Proper Equal Sex Ratio

1. Overall development and progress of women for enhance the status of women
2. Strict implementation, creation of rules and regulations
3. Support from legislative side



4. Special provision of reservation policy and cognizance of related issues
5. Proper role government and administration
6. Origination of education, labor force participation, employment, and economic performance for women.
7. Eradication and removal of attitude about gender inequality and unequal sex ratio from all social, cultural, economical and political levels.
8. Emphasis on self respect, esteem and prestige of women.
- 9 Modification and evaluation of various factors which are related to gender bias
10. Suitable and convenient t role of media and newspapers-

III THE SITUATION OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION, INEQUALITY AND FEMALE FOETICIDE IN CURRENT SCENARIO

India is predominately a patriarchal society has a child sex ratio of 914, according to the census of 2011, which is even lower than all over female sex ratio it decreased 1.40% during last decade. In 2001 child sex ratio was 927. The women were treated as the deity and the one who gives birth to the men, now is struggling for survival.

Today's age is an age of globalization. With respect to age there is need to change us and our mentality about gender inequality. Women reflected the expression of her work in every field. Urban society is now a day's changing its views and its bias attitudes. But rural and tribal society still have the attitude towards male and female. Social, cultural, economical and political levels women are avoiding. Sexual harassment, family disorganization, domestic violence etc are the different shades of gender inequality. The need of the hour is to change the attitude towards women and to protect, develop and respect them. Women in society makes life complete. We cannot imagine the life without women. Unequal sex ratio is creating so many social problems in our society.

The factual truth is that in India, 10 millions girls have been killed in 20 years. As early as possible we should stop this. For enhancing the status of women we have to start from our home and society. Proper social and financial support system needs to be created. Proper implementation of government schemes like "Beti bachao Abhiyaan" must be carried out.

Also there is a strict implementation of marriage legislation, dowry prohibition act, social economic programme and rural women development. It is more important to create a general awareness and understanding of the problems of women's employment in all the top pollicise, decision making and executive personnel.

The best way to do so is to educate the children, orientation the teachers, examine the text books and teaching aids and ensure that the next generation grows with new thinking.

Gender inequality creates domestic violence in Indian society. Women have been treated as child bearing machines. Domestic violence is one of the gravest and the most pervasive human rights violation. Fundamental rights should implemented properly for destroy the gender inequality. There are different provisions have been made to legislative matter like the right to dignity, right to shelter, right to be free of violence etc.



IV CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The social evils, female foeticide and infanticide can be eradicated only when people recognize the importance of women in life. It must be noticed that there will be no mother to take care of, no grandmother to say stories, no sister to encourage and support in need, no wife to share life and love, if the situation continues like this. Women play a major role in our life as a cook in kitchen, caretaker of children, house maintenance, well wisher, and many other things. It is very hard for men to take care of all these along with their daily activities without women.

A girl is not a liability. She is an asset in need. We see many cases where head of the family die or get crippled due to some reasons. Then the total family is brought up by a woman, where the woman may be wife, or daughter or grandmother etc. So the thought that a girl child is a liability must be removed from mind. Women can support their families in adversity.

In the modern life, women are equal to men in all aspects. They can do everything a man can do and sometimes, can do that a man cannot do. Everyone should come to know the skill, talent and capacity in women so that their views change and allow a girl child to take birth on this earth.

For adequate social change, development and social control, there is a need of time to eradicate this problem as early as possible.

1. Strict application of legal provisions.
2. Women empowerment and development.
3. Proper education for awareness and spread the message in society.
4. Dowry prohibition Act should be implemented effectively.
5. Reaching the masses through religious/spiritual leaders
6. Role of media and entertainment.
7. Social awareness for changing public mind-set.
8. Strict implementation of PNDT and MTP Acts.
9. Curbing quackery, sensitization of doctors, NGOS, govt. machinery, panchayat leaders.
10. Protect unborn girl child.
11. Educating/sensitizing male members of family.
12. Equal treatment, dignity and respect for girl child.

13. Fight against social evils.
14. Women empowerment: to make it a reality.
15. Role of NGO's administration and Government.



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