

# Female Foeticide, Infanticide and Girl Child Trafficking-Challenges and Strategies to Overcome

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**Abstract:** Women are the backbone of our rural as well as national economy. Agriculture is the main occupation for more than 60% of Indian population and half of its population is sufficed by women. They play pivot role in the total GDP, but how far their role is paid attention or measured is a major question all over the nation. In fact, conferences, seminars and workshops are taking places on this vital issue genuinely and even policies come in the form of proceedings but on ground level reality is something different. Still in some part of the country girls are not being provided equal rights for their health, education and in decision making process. Women play multipronged role starting from dawn to dusk but due to illiteracy, poverty and pre-occupied notions in some societies (that girl child are cursed not boon) female infanticide and their trafficking for prostitution or for domestic help. Not only in India but it's a matter of concern across the world. Across the world women faces more or less same challenges and problems. Although they play a major role in nurturing their kids, agricultural production and its post harvest management but when it comes to their right and participation in decision making process, it comes minimum or negligent ratio as compared to their male counterparts. It's said that they are equal to boys but in reality they are not.

**Key words:** GDP = Gross Domestic Product, Multipronged = Various role, Pre-occupied Notions = Pre-Idea.

## 1. Introduction

Women constitute half of our population and play multifarious role in all round development of our society. They have proved their excellence not only in caring and nurturing of their kids but in every walk of life. They are now scientists, doctors, engineers, agriculture scientists CEOs, managers, policy makers, players, fighter pilots, air-force officers, navy officers and what not. They have scaled the heights of their career. But on the other hand the mindset of our male dominating society has not been changed very much. Yes it has been changing but the pace is very slow. Millions of girls or women are missing every year. Most of our young girls are deprived of basic facilities just because they are girls. Only few are breaking their

social barriers and becoming Geeta fogut, Sakshi Mallik, PV Sandhu or Marry Com.

### 1.1 Female Foeticide

Female foeticide is an act of destruction of female foetus which is completely banned but still it is going on. In fact it is a good source of illegal income of few doctors. That is why a study done by Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) stated that female infanticide for son preference due to variety of reasons is a worldwide phenomenon with 1.5 million female foetuses being aborted every year and India ranks on 4th position in child sex ratio during birth and, Liechtenstein is on No. 1 as per Table 1.

Analysing the available statistics provided by "CIA World Face book" on child sex ratio at birth, ACHR's study Liechtenstein ranked the top countries in the world on skewed sex ratio at birth as follows:

### 1.2 Female Infanticide

Killing of girl child after birth in infant stage by any means is called female infanticide. This is more

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common in those states where literacy percentage is very low. Literacy percentage of any state is directly related with female/1,000 male ratio.

Sex-selective abortion is highly prevalent in India [1], is likely combined with other ways of seeking less care if a female baby is involved [2], and is a plausible

explanation for the distorted sex ratio at birth [3].

In the likely absence of sophisticated preconception methods to ensure conception of the desired sex [4], we are left with sex-selective abortion in the context of son preference as the most plausible explanation for a distorted sex ratio at birth [5].

**Table 1 Sex ratio of different countries.**

Sl.no	Name of the country	Sex ratio at birth	Rank
01	Liechtenstein	126 males/100 females	1
02	China	115 males/100 female	2
03	Armenia	113 males/100 females	3
04	India	112 males/100 females	4
05	Azerbaijan	111 males/100 females	5
06	Vietnam	111 males/100 females	6
07	Albania	110 males/100 females	7
08	Georgia	108 males/100 females	8
09	South Korea	107 males/100 females	9
10	Tunisia	107 males/100 females	10
11	Nigeria	106 males/100 female	11
12	Pakistan	105 males/100 females	12

**Table 2 State-wise sex ratio in India as per 2016 data.**

Sl. No.	State & Union territories	Population (2018 estimates)	Sex ratio	Rank
UT.1	Daman and Diu	242,911	618	1
UT2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	342,853	775	2
UT3	Chandigarh	1,054,686	818	3
UT4	Delhi	18,686,902	866	4
UT	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	379,944	878	5
1	Jammu and Kashmir	14,280,373	883	6
2	Sikkim	607,688	889	7
3	Punjab	30,045,949	893	8
4	Haryana	27,761,063	903	9
5	Uttar Pradesh	223,897,418	908	10
6	Bihar	119,237,851	916	11
7	Gujarat	67,600,992	918	12
8	Arunachal Pradesh	1,382,611	920	13
9	Rajasthan	75,984,317	926	14
10	Madhya Pradesh	72,597,565	930	15
11	Nagaland	1,980,602	931	16
UT6	Lakshadweep	64,429	946	17
12	Maharashtra	123,174,918	946	17
13	West Bengal	100,193,142	947	18
14	Jharkhand	32,966,238	947	18
15	Assam	31,169,272	954	19
16	Tripura	3,671,032	961	20
17	Uttarakhand	10,116,752	963	21
18	Chhattisgarh	25,540,196	991	22
19	Karnataka	61,130,704	968	23

Table 2 to be continued

20	Goa	1,457,723	968	23
21	Himachal Pradesh	7,123,184	974	24
22	Mizoram	1,091,014	975	25
23	Odisha	45,596,577	978	26
24	Meghalaya	2,964,007	986	27
25	Manipur	2,721,756	987	28
26	Andhra Pradesh	84,665,533	992	29
27	Tamil Nadu	79,096,413	995	30
28	Puducherry	1,244,464	1,038	31
29	Kerala	34,523,726	1,084	32
30	Telangana	35,193,978	-	N/A
Total	India	1,210,193,422	940	

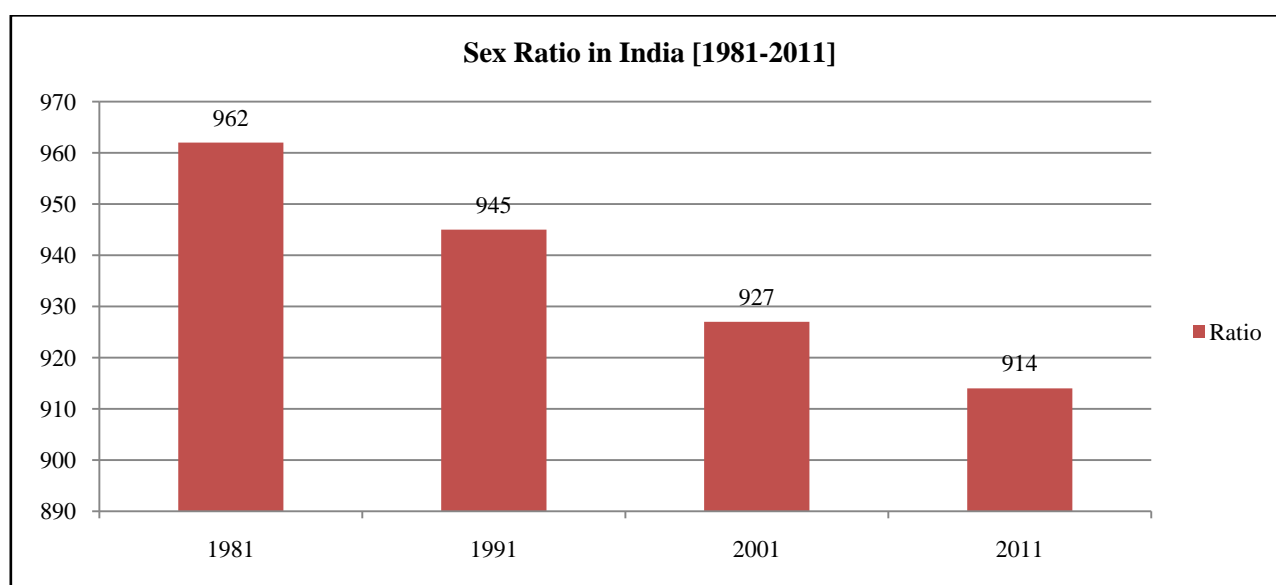


Fig. 1 Sex ratio of India from 1981-2011.

It is very clear that Kerala is having highest literacy percentage then its percentage of girl child is also high that is 1,084/1,000 males.

It is very heartening to note that technologically we have improved a lot but in case of female infanticide we are deteriorating day by day. The ratio is decreasing day by day, which can be seen from Fig.1.

### 1.3 Child Trafficking

Due to poverty or for any other reason (like for using girls or women as maid and) selling them to any other person from one place to other place is called child trafficking, there is an estimation of 27 million adults and 13 million children around the world who are

victims of human trafficking. Although human trafficking is often a hidden crime and accurate statistics are difficult to obtain, researchers estimate that more than 80% of trafficking victims are female. NGOs estimate that 12,000-50,000 women and children are trafficked into the country annually from neighbouring states for the sex trade. There is an estimation that there are 300,000 child beggars in India. Every year, 44,000 children fall into the clutches of the anti-social elements.

## 2. Causes of Female Foeticide, Girl Child Infanticide and Child Trafficking

- Poverty: Poverty is one of the important major

factors due to which poor people abort their girl child, sale their girl child or kill their girls.

- **Social Taboos:** There is a belief that only son child can give you relief or moksha after death. In fact nowadays we have seen the worst example in Mumbai that an old mother was found died while sleeping but her son did not turn up to see her. This was a heart breaking scene where this myth has gone. Instead of that son if she would have a daughter then she must had been cared. There is also a deep rooted feeling that only son child can extend the family.

- **Unequal status:** We are in 21st century. We have produced Marry Com, Bachhendri pal, Sakchhi Mallik but do we give equal status to our women? No still we maintain disparity between a girl child and a son. Although this is changing slowly nowadays.

- **Insecurity:** Still women are not secured.
- **Unauthorised Doctors Lab for Abortion.**
- **Less Education or more Education.**
- **Poor health care and status of female.**

Biologically the survival rate in girl child is more but due to poor health care facilities, there are no varies in different countries with different ratios. A. D. Lopez and L. T. Ruzicka, eds (1983) [6] say “When given the same care as males, females tend to have better survival rates than males”.

### 3. Bad Impacts

Decreasing rate of women in society: As it can be seen from Table 2 that since 1981 onwards there is continuous decrease in the number of girl child which causes social imbalance. Then it may happen that after few years boys will hardly find their matches. Now in some parts of Haryana and in a village of Himachal Pradesh there is a custom that 2, 3, or even four brothers marry a single woman. This custom might have risen due to less number of girls available in the society.

The famous economist Amartya Sen (1990) [7] after much calculation described in his paper that more than 100 million women are missing in the world every

year.

Rumani Saikia Phukan [8] states in her paper Stop Female Foeticide—Save the Girl Child that eligible Jat boys from Haryana are seeking brides from areas which are far away from their home town, like Kerala, to change their “single” status to “married”.

These are just a few instances. With fewer women, it is interesting to notice the “Indian marriage market”. Men are willing to pay a large amount of money to get married to a girl from other states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, or Madhya Pradesh. The outcome is that while the parents of the girls benefit, the girls themselves have to compromise their culture, dress, language and food habits.

**Increased number of polyandry:** As there will be less number of girl children in society, more number of boys will be bound to marry a single woman which will be sometimes against the moral ethics of those women.

**Increasing rate of rape cases:** When the number of female child will decrease then automatically rape cases will increase in the society. There have been 34,600 cases of rape in the year 2016, comprising highest in Madhya Pradesh and Delhi (the capital of our country).

The issue of violence against women grows increasingly urgent, statistics illustrating that violence against women is on the rise. Between the years of 2001 and 2011, the number of crimes against women has risen with an alarming 59%, the number one crime is rape [9].

**Sexual disharmony:** Due to decreasing number of female sex in future there will be threat of sexual social imbalance which will cause several other types of disorders which will cause another psychological threat. Hence it will be a total vicious circle of negative impact.

### 4. Strategies to Overcome These Challenges

- **Increasing Awareness:** A massive campaign has to be launched regarding importance of girl child and their equal status in society. Today a girl like Awani Chaturvedi a fighter pilot has proved very well that

girls are no where less competent or courageous than boys.

- Ban on illegal labs and private practitioners: Although there is a rule that if a doctor, nurse or anybody will be found that he/she is involved in girl child abortion then he/she will be fined but at ground level the practice is on, that is why there are more number of girl abortions. In fact their licence should be banned by police. In same fashion if a person found involved in girl child trafficking he/she should be punished with hard core penalties and jail.

- Implementation of rules and acts: Since we got independence several rules and acts have been passed regarding women's right, but implementations of those rules are far away from the reality.

- Increasing literacy status of women.
- Giving equal health care facilities to girl child, women after birth and till whole of their life.
- Implementation of the rule of equal right in parental property to the girl child.

## 5. Conclusion

In nutshell it can be said that although in recent years the mindset of our male dominating society has changed a little bit but the speed is very slow still girls, are being raped, women are burned to death & they are sold as sex workers, which means still we have to go a long journey to give them equal status, it can be said that miles to go and miles to go before I sleep.

- Save the Girl Child.
- Save the Humanity.
- Save the Society.

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