

Female Foeticide: Heinous Practice

Sweta Sharma (1st Year Law Student, Chandigarh University - Mohali)

Article History

Received: 21 April 2022

Accepted: 03 May 2022

Reviewed by Dr Vandana Tripathi and Parth Raman.

ISBN: 9798886848885

© 2022 The Author(s). Published by Vera Causa Legal, trading as Lex Scholasticus Journal of Law And Socio-Economic Issues.

Female Foeticide: Heinous Practice

-By Sweta Sharma

There is No Essence in Sphere Without Female

Introduction

Female Foeticide is the act of aborting a fetus because it is female, in simple words killing of girl child, even before she is born. Crime against women is an issue of national shame. Female Foeticide violence is the crime against women which is linked to their inferior position in the society. This is major problem of society in India which is connected with the dowry system in India. In a Legal context, it refers to the deliberate or incidental killing of fetus due to criminal human act. In our society people give preference to male child over girl child and do not appreciate the birth of girl. In India a strong fondness for sons over daughters. People generally want smaller family with comparatively greater sons. The term Female foeticide comprise of two words “female” and “foeticide”, female means girl and foeticide means killing the fetus in mother womb. In medical term “Female foeticide is the practice of destruction of girl fetus in mother womb. Female foeticide is selective elimination of female child, done under family pressure from husband, in-laws or even from maternal parents. In early days there are no advanced technologies through which we can determine the gender of fetus inside mother womb but girl child remains killed after birth by adding noxious substances in the milk or by

suffocating the girl child. Sad thing behind female foeticide is that women itself is responsible for pain of another women.

Analytical Research

Research analyzes that the main problems related to female foeticide are lack of education, illiterate societies because they think that only male child is source of family income, only male child can support financially, socially and emotionally, according to our society mythology, parents cannot obtain salvation unless they have a son to perform their death rituals and girls can only increase economic burden on family to obey the social norms like dowry. Female foeticide arrived in early 1990's because before 1990 there is no technology available for sex determination like Ultrasound, checks for various markers of foetal sex. Ultrasound technology was introduced in China and later in India in 1979 but its expansion is slow in all over the India. The various factors affecting the female foeticide are : Economic, Social and Cultural factors which are mentioned respectively. Desire of male child over the girl child is due to economic benefits of son and cost of daughter because in India, people believes that daughters are culpability because she have to overrun to another family after marriage and once she got married, she cannot look after their parents by contributing in financial status of family.

They believes that nurturing of girl child is very costly for them. Fact behind this myths are that only men can get high paying jobs and provide financial support to his family. Womens are considered as weaker sex and their security has always been a concern for family. From early time period Rajputs and Marathas started this practice to protect the dignity of women from invader. Increased cases of rapes and harassment leads to victimhood due to which parents disfavoured the girl child. People credence that girls cannot conduct and continue the father family because one day girl will get married and relation between them will halted after her marriage and only son will be there for the care of the parents. But this beliefs are erroneous because girl will always loves her parents and they are always with her family in sobs sniffles and smiles. There is a social pressure on women to have male children and if women is giving birth to girl child can lead to rejection by in-laws and by the community as whole. In Hindu religion, the son is duty bound to blaze the parents corpse pyre, in order for them to reach Nirvana whereas girl child will make then count in lower caste. Though Indian vedic times use to signify goddesses but has a archive records in female foeticide and has been under reported due to lack of data. But India has step and make one's way by passing Medical Termination Act, 1971. As abortion is forbid but legal on grounds such as risk to foster mother. Then in times of 1994's our India has passed the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PNDCT) to under control sex screening automation, but later on our government had amended (PNDT) into Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PCPNDT) , 2004 to expel the prenatal sex screening.

Conclusion

But still people getting vague results because of substandard law enforceability by government. The India Medical Association has set down attempt to avert prenatal sex selection by giving its members *Beti Bachao* badges during its meetings and conferences. However, a recent study by Nandi and Deolalikar, 2013 argues that the 1994 PNDT Act may have a small impact by preventing 106,000 female foeticides over one decades. Over the next 20 years, in parts of India there will be 12 to 15 percent excess of young men leading to an obvious bride shortage, which leads to a substantial increase in aggression and organized crime, Rape and other forms of violence against women, Drug and alcohol abuse, Situation where all men of the family share the same wife i.e “Polyandry”, Women being viewed as commodities like kidnapping and trafficking of girls. UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund) has warned that “ the alarming decline in the child sex- ratio is likely to result in more girls being married at a younger age, more girls dropping out of education, increased mortality as a result of early child bearing and increased violence against girls and women such as rape, abduction, trafficking and forced polyandry.

“Regardless of the gender whether it’s a girl or boy, all are God’s little one’s , we should welcome what he has allocate to us in our fate”.

REFERENCES :

1. Bandewar, S. (2003). Abortion Services and Providers “Perceptions: Gender Dimensions.” Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 38, No.21, pg. 2075-2081, May 24 30, 2003.
2. Diaz, A.A. (1988). Amniocentesis and Female Foeticide. Bulletin of the Indian Federation of Medical Guild, July 56.
3. Brody, B. (1975) Abortion and Sanctity of human life: A Philosophical View, Oxford University Press
4. Blij, H. J.de (1995) Human Geography- culture, Society, and Space pp.199-213, 5th edition, John Willy and Son, Inc.
5. Justice Y.K. Sabharwal, „Education of Female Foeticide“
http://supremecourtfindia.nic.in/speeches/speeches_2006/eff.pdf
6. . Female Feticide: Causes & Effects of Sex-Selective Abortion,
<https://soapboxie.com/social-issues/FemaleFeticide-Causes-Effects-and-Solutions>
7. Gangrade, K.D. (1988). Sex Determination – ACritique. Journal of Social Change, Vol. 18 No. 3, Pp. 63-70.
8. Female foeticide in India, Alka Gupta, <http://unicef.in/PressReleases/227/Female-foeticide-in-India>, (Last visited 17 October 2018)

9. Sen, Amartya (1990), More than 100 million women are missing, New York Review of Books, 20 December, pp. 61-66.
10. Sen, Amartya (1990), More than 100 million women are missing, New York Review of Books. ISSN 0028-7504.
11. "Girl Child Sex Ratio In India has Fallen to 919 in 2011: Report" The Indian Express, 3rd November 2013
<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/girl-child-sex-ratio-in-india-has-fallen-to-919-in-2011-report/1190598/> (Last visited 17 October 2018)
12. P. Sundaramma, „Does Abortion Abet Female Foeticide“ (The Hindu, 14th June, 2012
<http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/open-page/does-abortion-law-abet-femalefoeticide/article3459939.ece>(Last visited 17 October 2018
13. Female foeticide in India, Alka Gupta, <http://unicef.in/PressReleases/227/Female-foeticide-in-India>, (Last visited 17 October 2018)
14. Xinhua, Gender Imbalance in Birth rate, 12 July 2006.
15. Nandi,A.; Deolalikar, A.B. (2013). "Does a legal ban on sex-selective abortions improve child sex ratios? Evidence from a policy change in India". Journal of Development Economics. 103: 216-228.
16. Isabelle Attane, op. cit.
17. UNICEF, 2007 op.cit.