

## An Exploratory Study to Assess the Attitude Regarding Female Foeticide among Adolscent Girls (13-19 Years) At a Selected Urban Community Health Centre in Delhi

Shweta<sup>1</sup>, Rosemary Joshua<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>(Former B.Sc.Nursing Student, St. Stephen's Hospital college of nursing, India)

<sup>2</sup>(Former Associate Professor, St. Stephen's Hospital college of nursing, India)

**Abstract: Background:** Female foeticide is a process of aborting perfectly healthy female fetuses after about 18 weeks (or more) of gestation just because they are females. The same fetuses would've been allowed to live if they were males. There is no question that female foeticide is not just unethical but it is downright cruel as well. Unethical because despite being in good health, the aborted baby girls' chance at life was taken away just because they were females, whilst they would've been permitted to live if they were males. Cruel because they were already partially grown and well on their way to become persons we refer to as the human infants. The killing of women exists in various forms in societies the world over. However, Indian society displays some unique and particularly brutal versions, such as dowry deaths and sati. Female foeticide is an extreme manifestation of violence against women. Female fetuses are selectively aborted after pre-natal sex determination, thus avoiding the birth of girls. In the case of female foeticide, majority of abortions are done after 18 weeks of gestation because that's when the gender of the fetus is visible with the available ultrasound scan technology.

**Material and method:** An exploratory design was selected for the study. Setting of the study was selected Urban Community Health Centre in Delhi. In the present study, the sample comprised of 60 adolescent girls of age group 13 to 19 years. Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the samples.

**Result:** Highest mean attitude score (107.60) was of adolescent girls in the age group of 13-14 years, (105.07) of adolescent girls were Hindu, (131) of adolescent girls were illiterate, (108.76) was of adolescent girls whose father's annual income is 5,000 to 10,000, (114) of adolescent girl whose father's occupation is Government job, (105.62) of adolescent girl whose mothers were Housewives, (149.50) was scored by adolescent girls who were living in extended family, (105.10) was scored by adolescent girls who were unmarried.

**Conclusion:** Researchers has taken this study to find out the attitude of adolescent girls regarding female foeticide in selected Urban Community Health Centre in Delhi. Data was collected among 60 adolscent girls. Exploratory analysis was used for analysis i.e. mean, Standard deviation, pie diagram and bars was used to depicts the findings.

**Keywords:** Female Foeticide, Attitude, Adolescent Girls, Urban, Fetus.

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### I. Introduction

The preference for a male child and discrimination against the female child are causing the rapid disappearance of female children.<sup>1</sup>

The killing of women exists in various forms in societies the world over. Female foeticide is an extreme manifestation of violence against women. Female foeticide are selectively aborted after pre-natal sex determination, thus avoiding the birth of girls.<sup>2</sup>

It is the disgrace for the Indian society, which considers the birth of a girl as bad investment in future. People prefers son as a child because sons are the source of income and they don't prefer girls because of dowry. In India sex detection technologies have been misused.<sup>3</sup>

The women 'gave in' centuries ago and she is still 'giving in'. The women started to suffer from the day she developed the gift of feeling and emotion. She is still suffering. The life of women in India is marked by such disrespect that some feel it is better for the family, and even for the baby girl, that she not be born.<sup>4</sup> The phenomenon of female foeticide in India is not new where female embryo or foetus is selectively eliminated after pre-natal sex determination, thus eliminating girl child even before they are born. In Indian society, female foeticide has emerged as a burning social problem during the last few years. Women, who constitute half a population have been discriminated, harassed, irrespective of the country to which they belong. Everywhere women are confronted with many challenges.<sup>5</sup>

Female foeticide is one of the extreme manifestations of violence against women—a social problem that is now spreading unchecked across the country. Female foetuses are selectively being aborted after pre-natal sex determination thus denying girls “Right to life”.<sup>6</sup>

Female foeticide cuts across all sections of Indian society. With no regards to caste, religion or geography. It is practiced by the wealthy, the middle class and the poor, in urban areas and now spreading in rural regions.<sup>7</sup>

The term foeticide is a combination of the Latin word “foetus” and “caedo” which means to kill an unborn child. The practice of female foeticide involves the detection of the sex of the unborn child in the womb of the mother and the decision to abort it if the sex of the child is detected as girl.<sup>8</sup>

Gender ratio in our country is shifting heavily in favour of males. A continuing decline in sex ratio secondary to female foeticide has many potentially serious consequences. This could lead to increase violence against women, rape, abduction, trafficking and onset of practices such as polyandry.<sup>9</sup>

## **II. Materials and Methods**

**Study design:** An exploratory design was selected for the study.

**Study setting:** Setting of the study was selected Urban Community Health Centre in Delhi.

**Sampling technique:** In the present study, the sample comprised of 60 adolescent girls of age group 13 to 19 years. Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select the samples.

After obtaining formal permission was obtained from the Head of Department, selected Urban Community Health Centre in Delhi. A written informed consent was taken from the subjects, concerned and were assured that anonymity of subjects and confidentiality of information would be maintained. The final study was conducted in selected Urban Community Health Centre in Delhi. The subjects comprise of adolescent girls of 13-19 years. The data was collected using questionnaire.

### **Inclusion criteria:**

1. Only adolescent girls between the age group of 13-19 years were included in this study.
2. Adolescent girls who were willing to participate in the study.
3. Adolescent girls who are able to understand and speak Hindi language.

### **Procedure methodology**

After written informed consent was obtained. The individual subjects were approached in their homes. Self-introduction was given, the purpose and the importance of the study was explained. Questionnaire was administered individually; 30 minutes was spent with each respondent and the data was collected.

### **Statistical analysis**

Data was analyzed using SPSS version 20. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. The data was analyzed by calculating the percentage, mean, standard deviation.

## **III. Results**

### **Sample characteristics**

#### **Distribution according to percentage of demographic variables:**

- Maximum no. of adolescent girls was (60%) in the age group of 17-19 years followed by (23.3%) of age group 15-16 years and minimum (16.7%) were in age group of 13-14 years.
- Maximum no. of adolescent girls was Hindu (68.3) and minimum no. of adolescent girls was Muslim (31.7%).
- Maximum no. of adolescent girls (55%) comes under 6-10<sup>th</sup> class followed by (41.6%) adolescent girls comes under senior secondary, minimum no. of adolescent girls (1.7%) were comes under up to 5<sup>th</sup> class and (1.7%) adolescent girls was illiterate.
- Maximum no. of adolescent girls (45%) father's earning was above 20,000 followed by (21.6%) their father's earning was 5,000-10,000, (18.3%) their father's earning is 16,000-20,000 and minimum no. of adolescent girls (15%) father's earning was 11,000-15,000.
- Maximum no. of adolescent girls (55%) fathers were self-employed followed by (36.6%) their father's occupation was private job, (6.7%) fathers were unemployed and minimum no. of adolescent girls (1.7%) fathers were in government job.
- Maximum no. of adolescent girls (83.3%) mothers was house wife and minimum no. of adolescent girls (16.7%) mothers were doing private job.
- Maximum no. of adolescent girls (66.7%) was living in nuclear family followed by (30%) adolescent girls living in a joint family and minimum no. of adolescent girls (3.3%) was living in an extended family.

- As per marital status (100%) adolescent girls were unmarried.

#### **Distribution according to mean attitude score:**

- Highest mean attitude score (107.60) was of adolescent girls in the age group of 13-14 years, followed by (104.91) in the age group of 17-19 years, and the lowest score (104.07) was in the age group of 15-16 years.
- Highest mean attitude score (105.07) of adolescent girls were Hindu, and the lowest mean attitude score (104.89) of adolescent girls were Muslim. No Sikh and Christian.
- Illiterate adolescent girls had scored highest mean attitude score (131) regarding female foeticide, followed by adolescent girls studying in 6-10th class had scored (106.69), followed by adolescent girls studying upto 5th class had scored (104), and adolescent girls studying in senior secondary class have scored the lowest score (102).
- Highest mean attitude score (108.76) was of adolescent girls whose father's annual Income Is 5,000 to 10,000, followed by (106.22) of adolescent girls whose father's annual income is 11,000 to 15,000, followed by adolescent girls whose father's annual income is 16,000 to 20,000 had scored (104.18) and the lowest mean attitude score (103.33) had scored by adolescent girls whose father's annual income is above 20,000.
- Highest mean attitude score (114) of adolescent girls whose father is doing Government job, followed by (112.25) of adolescent girls whose father's were unemployed, followed by adolescent girl whose father's were self-employed had scored (105.30), and the lowest mean attitude score (103.09) had scored by adolescent girls whose father is doing private Job.
- Highest mean attitude score (105.62) of adolescent girls whose mothers were Housewives, and the lowest mean attitude score (102.50) had scored by adolescent girls whose mother's occupation is private job. Nobody's mother Is doing Government job.
- Highest mean attitude score (149.50) was scored by adolescent girls who were living in extended family, followed by mean attitude score (107.20) by adolescent girls who were living in a joint family and lowest mean attitude score (100.40) by adolescent girls who were living in a nuclear family.
- Mean attitude score (105.10) was scored by adolescent gids whowere unmarried.

#### **IV. Discussion**

The study aimed to assess the attitude regarding female foeticide among adolescent girls (13-19 years) and to compare the attitude regarding female foeticide among adolescent girls (13-19 years) with demographic variables. The objectives also included to prepare a pamphlet to impart knowledge regarding female foeticide among adolescent girls (13-19 years).

The pamphlets were disseminated after the data collection and no post intervention was given after the dissemination.

1. To assess the attitude regarding female foeticide among adolescent girls (13-19 years)

Maximum no. of adolescent girls was (60%) in the age group of 17-19 years, (68.30%) were Hindu, (55%) adolescent girls were comesunder 6-10th class,(45%) of adolescent girl's father earning was above 20,000,(55%) of adolescent girl's father were self-employed, (83.30%) of adolescent girl's mother were house wife, (66.70%) of adolescent girls were living in nuclear family,(100%) adolescent girls were unmarried.

2. To compare the attitude regarding female foeticide among adolescentgirls (13-19years) with demographic variables.

Highest mean attitude score (107.60) was of adolescent girls in the age group of 13-14 years, (105.07) of adolescent girls were Hindu, (131) of adolescent girls were illiterate, (108.76) was of adolescent girls whose father's annual income is 5,000 to 10,000, (114) of adolescent girl whose father's occupation is Government job, (105.62) of adolescent girl whose mothers were Housewives, (149.50) was scored by adolescent girls who were living in extended family, (105.10) was scored by adolescent girls whowere unmarried.

#### **V. Conclusion**

Researchers has taken this study to find out the attitude of adolescent girls regarding female foeticide in selected Urban Community Health Centre in Delhi.s Data was collected among 60 adolscent girls. Exploratory analysis was used for analysis i.e. mean, Standard deviation, pie diagram and bars was used to depicts the findings.

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