

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE ATTITUDE REGARDING FEMALE FETICIDE AMONG WOMEN IN SELECTED RURAL AREAS OF U.P.

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Abstract: *The present study has been taken up to assess the attitude of women, in rural community. Non Experimental descriptive research design was used for this study among 200 women who has participated in the study and result shows that Women had moderately favorable attitude regarding female feticide.*

Key Words: *Female feticide, attitude, favorable.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Female Feticide is the illegal practice of killing a foetus which is determined as a female. Female foeticide is prevalent in our country as a major social evil. The patriarchal social structure of India gives a secondary position to women.

Social belief goes that the family runs through a male and hence the birth of a male child in the family is imminent to the carrying forward of its generation. Social discrimination and the preference for sons have given rise to the rate of social sex determination.

Even some medical practitioners are making high incomes by determining pre-natal sex of the child and aborting foetus on the will of the parents. The practice is unlawful and demands strict punishment in form of fine or jail to the person requesting abortion of the unborn girl child as well as to the practitioner who gets the sex determined.

Some kind of complications in pregnancy can also demand surgical termination of pregnancy after eight weeks of conception. This is where the termination or abortion is legal and doctors may have to suggest and opt for discontinuance of pregnancy for the sake of health of the mother carrying the unborn child.

The problem of female foeticide has received little attention. The female foetus is readily sacrificed on the altar of expediency, individual convenience and legal technicalities.

Ease access to the techniques of sex determination has given rise to female foeticide. In many countries, modern techniques of ultrasound scans and unuterio-sex testing which are basically designed to make pregnancy safer are ironically being abused for female foeticide. Millions of female fetuses are aborted creating a serious sex imbalance to give rise to other social problems in India

Issues in India:

Sex-selective infanticide has increased in present day patriarchal India. The bias infanticide is the practice of terminating a pregnancy based on the predicted sex of the fetus (Goodkind 53). The preference of male children has lead to over millions of female deaths and abortions; the cause of the rising of female infanticide in India is due to the influences of over population, the dowry system, economic statuses, caste systems, social norms, women's role, cultural beliefs, religion, etc. Most of these practices are due to the value or devaluation of women in some parts of the world. The system, custom, and tradition of these patriarchal societies lead to the

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Gitanjali Kapoor (23 feb, 2017) It was a hospital based cross-sectional study. The present study was undertaken among the 204 newly registered pregnant women attending the hospital in Marh block of Jammu district, Jammu and Kashmir, India. A predesigned, pre-tested and structured questionnaire was used in the study. The data collection technique was a personnel interview of the study subjects. The mean age of study subjects was 25.39±3.6 years. A majority (75.5%) of the pregnant women did not show any gender preference, followed by male preference (13.73%) and female preference (10.78%). Only 70.59% and 67.65%, of the total subjects were aware that prenatal sex determination and female feticide are illegal, respectively.

Anjana Ramesh, (September 13, 2016) A cross sectional study was carried at few preuniversity colleges in Mangalore. Data was collected using a semistructured questionnaire. The study included 300 adolescents. 45.7% stated that the major cause for practice of feticide is discrimination between male and female. Majority (62%) of them were aware of all the diagnostic methods to determine the sex of the child and termination methods. 43.3% of the students were aware about the laws enforced. 37% believe that enforcing strict laws could be the way to stop female feticide. Conclusion: Adolescents agreed that the decline in sex ratio is the main impact of female feticide.

3. MATERIALS & METHOD:

Research Approach: Descriptive survey approach was used for the present study.

Research design: Non Experimental descriptive research design was use.

Sample: In this study, samples were women age between 18- 40 yrs of different rural areas of UP.

Sample Size: Sample size included in this study is 200 of different rural areas of UP.

Sampling Technique: Non probability purposive sampling technique was used for collecting the sample.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE TOOLS:

Development Of Attitude Scale -

The instrument selected in the research must be the vehicle that obtains best data for drawing conclusion of the study.

- **Section- A: Demographic profile sheet**
- **Section- B: Attitude scale**

Section A –

It contains 9 demographic variables these are age, religion, education status (women), education status (husband), occupation, family income, type of family, gravid, source of information.

Section- B (Likert-type attitude scale):

- Likert-type attitude scale was surveyed from literature and catalogue. The following standardized scales used as references like the fishbein method, likert technique and Guttman scale
- With all this literature and catalogue in mind the researcher formed 1-5 Likert-type attitude scale. The Likert-type attitude scale consists of 15 items.
- The items belonged to the attitude towards female feticide .
- Respondents' responses were marked as 5 for those who strongly agreed, for those who agreed, 3 for uncertain ,2 for those who disagreed and 1for those who strongly disagree.
- The subjects responded to each item by choosing one of the five alternatives-strongly agree, agree, uncertain, disagree and strongly disagree based on the statement.

Reliability Of Tool:

The reliability was assessed by testing the instruments is co-efficient of knowledge test was calculated by using (Chronbach alpha Formula), it was found $r= 0.08$, It indicates tools is reliable.

Procedure For Data Collection

A total number of 200 subjects were selected for the study as per the inclusion/exclusion criteria:

- The research investigator introduced themselves to the subjects and established the good rapport with them.
- The verbal consent was obtained from the each subject.
- Appropriate orientation was given to the subject about the aim of the study, nature of attitude scale and adequate care was taken for protecting the subject from potential risk including maintaining confidentiality, security, and identity.
- Socio-demographic variable collected from the subject by structured interview schedule.
- Data was collected by interviewing using a attitude scale which was prepared by the researcher.
- Data collected was then tabulated and analyzed.

Plan for data analysis:

The data obtained were analyzed in the term of objective of the study using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequency, percentage, mean were used to assessing demographic profile, attitude score of women.

It includes:

Chi-square test for finding the association between the attitudes of the subject with the selected demographic variables.

5. RESULT & DISCUSSION:

S.No	Level of Attitude	Frequency	Frequency %	Mean
1	Unfavorable	4	2	68.4
2	Moderately Favorable	153	76.5	
3	Favorable	43	21.5	

Section A: frequency and frequency percentage distribution of the women according to demographic variables.

- Result shows the Distribution of women according to their age in years that 7.5% of them were in the age group of 18-22 years, 28.5% were in the age group of 23-27 years, 21% of them were in the age group 28-32 years and 43% of them were in the age group 32-40 years.
- Distribution of women according to their religion shows that 75% of them are Hindu, 25% of them are Muslims and no one from them are Christian and others .
- Distribution of women according to their education shows that 23% of them having no formal education, 39.5% of them having primary education, 27% of them having secondary education and 10.5% are Graduate.
- Distribution of women according to their husband's education shows that 6.5% are having no formal education, 32.5% are having primary education, 37% are having secondary education and 24% are Graduate.
- Distribution of women according to their occupation shows that 94.5% of them are housewife,5% of them are service women, no one is doing any business and 0.5% of them are work in daily wages .
- Distribution of women according to their family income shows that 10% of them are having Rs5,000 , 30% of them having Rs 5,001 to 10,000, 41.5% of them having Rs 10,001 to 20,000 and 18.5% are having above 20,001.
- Distribution of women according to their type of family shows that 58.5% of them are having nuclear family, 38% of them are having joint family and3.5% are having extended.
- Distribution of women according to their gravid shows that 19.5% of them are first gravid, 39% are second gravid, 23.5% are third gravid and 18% are fourth gravid.
- Distribution of women according to their source of information shows that 79.5% of them get information from television/ radio, 20.5% of them get information from the newspaper and no one get any kind of information from the magazines and through the social health workers.

Section B: Analysis of attitude regarding female feticide among Women:

The data presented in section no –B, depict that the level of attitude of women is majority 153(76.5%) moderately favorable and 43(21.5%) is favorable and 4(2%) is unfavorable. The data depicts that the attitude level of women is moderately favorable.

Section C: Association of attitude score of women with selected demographic Variables.

Result of section no C shows that the demographic variable are such as Age, Religion, Education (women), Education (husband), Occupation, Type of family ,Family income , Gravid, Source of information calculated chi-square value was less than the table value and $P > 0.05$ hence there was no significant association between attitude score and selected demographic variables at 0.05 level of significance. thus the research hypothesis was rejected.

6. CONCLUSION:

The result of the study reveals that moderately favourable attitude existed regarding female feticide among women.

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