

FOGSI-Smriti-MYLAN-PHILLIP Save the Girl Child

Issue : 2013 AICOG Mumbai



EDITORIAL

From President's Desk



It gives me immense pleasure to write a few words for the News letter on "The FOGSI Smriti Save the Girl Child News Letter".

India is a country where social disadvantage outweighs natural biological advantage of being a girl. A whole range of discriminatory practices including female feticide, female infanticide, female genital mutilation, son idolization, early marriage and dowry have buried the future of the nation. In India, discriminatory practices have greatly influenced the health and well-being of a girl child, resulting in a higher mortality rate.

Girl child is the future of every nation and India is no exception. A little amount of care, a handful of warmth and a heart full of love for a girl child can make a big difference. Close your eyes, free your thoughts and hear the voice of God, He is saying something to all of us, "Save Me".

I wish Dr. Narendra, Dr. Jaideep & their team all the very best for their future endeavors. I will appreciate feedbacks & constructive criticism from readers to present better reading material in future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. P. K. Shah
President FOGSI

From Secretary
General's Desk....

Dear FOGSIANS,

Greetings,

Welcome to Mumbai for the AICOG 2013.

Our country is still plagued by the disrespect to the girl child and despite all the laws and our efforts, Sex determination & sex selection keep on happening and the sex ratio is still disturbed.

We from FOGSI have to stand up and fight this evil and be brand ambassadors for the society.

We hope in India we are able to stop this & also improve the value of the girl child.

Warm regards

Dr. Nozer Sheriar
Secretary General

Hello everyone.

We meet again on the save the girl child newsletter. I hope this diwali and new year brought you all lots of happiness and opportunities. But did they bring even a little smile on the face of a girl child? Did we all do something better from the last time we met? Did we join hands to fight against female foeticide?

Well, difficult questions and even more difficult problem of saving the girl child. What is more important is to have a mindset revolution. People should discard the gender bias they have in their mind. People should overthrow any apprehensions they have towards the girl child.

They have to realise that she is very important for the success of our society. That's why the Girl Child Campaign in India says - A happy girl is the future of our country.

All I can say is a Quote - "Every second that you live you are never going to get back..... You are never going to get to change what you said, didn't say, did, or didn't do. Live how you want to live. Act how you want to be remembered, because you never know how long or short you are going to "

Thanking you and hoping for a better year now!!!

Neharika Malhotra



CHILD ADOPTION PROGRAMME BY SMRITI INDIA



मैं वंशिका हूँ। मुझे कानों से सुनाई नहीं देता है। मुझे स्मृति संस्था ने गोद लिया है। मैं अपने नये अभिभावकों को पाकर खुश हूँ। डॉ. मल्होत्रा अंकल और अमित अंकल की आभारी हूँ। जिन्होंने मुझे आगे पढ़ने का मौका दिया।

Join our
CAP initiative
for just ₹17 per day
you can change
the life of a girl



"Be the change you want to see in the world" - Mahatama Gandhi



Dear Friends,

The girl child faces discrimination even before birth in many societies in the form of sex determination and selective abortion – highlighted by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen as the "One Million missing women". This imbalance is further burdened by the family preferably feeding the adults and the male child compared with a female child, depriving the female child of education and asking her to work at home or to work for others for a salary and less care given about health needs. These inequalities continue as adolescent and women in the reproductive age group and the old age group. This inequalities from before birth to end of life is worse where there is poverty. The world leaders in constructing the Millenium development Goals (MDGs) to make the world a better place to live highlighted five of the eight to overcome this discrimination by emphasising eradication of poverty (MDG 1), female education and equality (MDGs 2 & 3), reduction in child (MDG 4) and maternal mortality (MDG 5).

We as a society need to take action and I was pleased to see the FOGSI – LUPIN- Smriti – taking the lead. The News letter "Save the Girl Child" issue 2 had very valuable articles and news about various activities. On behalf of FIGO my sincere thank you and congratulations to all the volunteers, donors and participants for their contribution in education, conducting general check ups, vaccination, adoption and fund raising programmes. It is heartening to see so many branches of FOGSI participating in these activities. Our best wishes to FOGSI and the key people behind these wonderful activities. Special thanks to Dr Neharika Malhotra for bringing out the valuable news letter.

Best wishes for the Festive season and for a wonderful productive year.

With sincere regards,

Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran
President, FIGO

ACTIVITIES OF 2012 BY FOGSI SOCIETIES

BARODA SOCIETY



MUZAFFARPUR SOCIETY



MANIPAL SOCIETY



AOGO SOCIETY



ACTIVITIES OF 2012 BY FOGSI SOCIETIES

AHMEDNAGAR SOCIETY



स्त्रीरोग शास्त्र संघटनेची गर्भलिंगनिदान व्यायामचक्र कायदाविधायी कार्यशाळा अहमदनगर येथे संपन्न

पिंपरीच्या कला कर्मचारी युक्ता कातांग आणखिल महामनसिकेने आरंभ अधिकारी डॉ. विलास रामचंद्र लखरे डॉ. दिलीप बाबळे, डॉ. जयदेव ठेंबळी, डॉ. महाशुभेन्द्र डेंबळ, डॉ. सरद निळे

ALLAHABAD SOCIETY



Doctors participating in the Beti Bachao candle light procession

SAHARANPUR SOCIETY



दहेज प्रथा रोको, भ्रूण हत्या स्वयं रुक जाएगी

सहारनपुर : मातृ शिशु स्वास्थ्य एवं भ्रूण हत्या रोको अभियान के दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से दहेज प्रथा रोकने के लिए डॉ. रमचंद्र ने कहा कि दहेज प्रथा रोकने से भ्रूण हत्या स्वयं रुक जाएगी। इस दौरान कार्यक्रम में योगदान करने वाले चिकित्सकों को सम्मानित किया गया।

योगदान करने वाले चिकित्सकों को एक एक पत्रिका सेहदाई को अर्पण कर, शोभा देवी, डा. विनीता मल्लिक, डा. अनिता मलिक, डा. एमके अग्रवाल, डा. सीमा शर्मा, डा. चित्रा मन्मथ को जैन भावार्थ सभित के अध्यक्ष ने तबियत निर में दुस्कार प्रेक्षक सम्मानित किया।

डा. भास्कर ने कहा कि दहेज प्रथा रोकने से भ्रूण हत्या स्वयं रुक जाएगी उम्मीद है यह संदेश जन-जन तक पहुंचाने का ध्यान किया। एमईई सिंह, चिकी मन्ना, डा. सुशील, डा. सुधा चौक, एमपी सिंह, चारुला आदि उपस्थित रहे।

YAVATMAL SOCIETY



BHILAI SOCIETY



In 1902, John Broad of the University of Jena declared that, "any interference or alternation of determination of sex is absolutely beyond human power". Which is proved to be false today because of technology. Education n technology are our most vital instruments in remoulding the cast go which our society has established itself over the centuries. Humans have never been more advanced socially n scientifically. This is the biggest boon that we have today if used in the correct way. It is upon us to set an example for the rest of the society to avoid such brutalities like female foeticide and abuse. We must become the trendsetters towards a brighter future for our young angels. To summarize it all, Late Mrs Indira Gandhi has rightly said-"Education is a liberating force, and go our age it is also a democratising force, cutting across the carriers of caste n class smoothing out inequalities imposed by birth and other circumstances.

DR SHWETA GROVER



FOGSI CALENDER 2013

Presented by Sahil Fauzdar & Devyani



FOGSI alongwith NGO Smriti presents to you a calender for 2013 to be kept on your tables with poems & quotes from FOGSIANS. We wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2013. May the Girl child be respected.

Conceptualised by Jaideep Malhotra & Narendra Malhotra



GLOBAL WALKS CAMPAIGN TO SAVE INDIAN GIRLS

- Dr Jaideep Malhotra

A look at the campaign's website informs you that in the last century, over a staggering 50 million girls have been eliminated from India's population. Shockingly, 10 million girls have been killed by their parents either before or soon after their birth in India in the last two decades. With these very disturbing figures in mind, Ms. Caputi founded the Walk in San Francisco in 2010 and since then, has partnered with organizations in over 20 cities across five countries - India, USA, Canada, Australia and Kuwait to organize Walks in these cities. Ms. Caputi hopes, through the walk and her documentary film, to be a voice for the Indian girls and women and spur the International and Indian communities into getting involved to help fight this "gendercide". Seven cities across four countries participated in the inaugural 2010 Walk. In 2011, the number doubled to 15 cities, with Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Agra, Kolkata, Chennai, Jamshedpur, Goa, Sri Ganganagar, Dubai, Toronto, Vancouver, Washington D.C and San Francisco participating in the Walk, on the occasion of International Women's Day. The Walks in 2012 & 2013 hope to see many more cities join the brigade.

"By organizing the walk in different parts of India, girls, women, school and college students would participate and not only create awareness but also realize themselves the value of the girl child and the necessity to fight female foeticide and infanticide. The global walk has been written about both in India and the US and the issues of female foeticide and infanticide are becoming more public. I plan to make the Walk for India's Missing Girls an annual event and besides making it more global, my dream is to have every city, town and village in India, also organize this walk", says Ms. Caputi, in an interview with The Christian Messenger.

Ashwin S Kumar, who is the international coordinator for the walk, says "We tend to assume that in today's era, people are better-off, more educated and aware of the issue. I'd like to point out that, sadly, we are grossly wrong. There is still a lot to be done, we have a long way to go. I also came across news reports that the practice is not restricted to rural India alone, but in fact, rampant even among educated Indian families in countries like the US and Canada. The Global Walk For India's Missing Girls is a fantastic initiative and one of the best ways to spread awareness about the disturbing practice, apart from driving home the message that a girl child is a boon for any family and not by any means, a bane, as is, unfortunately, widely perceived. The loss of a girl child is nothing but another step closer towards the end of humankind. Social media has been of great help to us, as a medium for change. The numbers in each walk have just been increasing by the year. This year, we went a step further - we even had few of the walks streamed live, so that people worldwide, could participate virtually. We hope to make our walks bigger and better each year."

With an incredible growth, strong determination and contagious enthusiasm, this campaign, undertaken for a noble cause, is truly one to watch out for.

Official website: <http://www.petalsinthedust.com>

Join the campaign on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/globalwalkindiagirls/>

Follow the campaign on Twitter: [@GlobalWalkGirls](https://twitter.com/GlobalWalkGirls)

2nd January, 2013 - Save Girl Child Walk at Agra
14th January, 2013 - Save Girl Child Walk at Mumbai
During AICOG 2013 - Many functions for Save Girl Child



Welcome to AICOG 2013 at Mumbai. We have made elaborate arrangements for your comfort. Hope you all are comfortable and enjoy Mumbai? Special social events have been organised and very special events for SAVE THE GIRL CHILD.

- Dr H. D. Pai



बहुत बार आई-गई यह दिवाली, मगर तुम जहां थी वहीं पर खड़ी हो, बहुत बार लौ जल-बुझी पर अभी तक, कफन रात का हर चमन पर पड़ा है, न फिर सूर्य रुटे, न फिर स्वप्न टूटे, उषा को जगाओ, निशा को सुलाओ! दिये से मिटेगा न मन का अंधेरा, धरा को उठाओ, गगन को झुकाओ!

there has to be balance of social reforms to bring woman and man at par with each other socially, in the homes and in the economic independence.

Women have to decide that they are reincarnation of Ma Durga, Laxmi, Saraswati and Ma Kali.

Inherent power of women have to be realized by women before an equilibrium can be brought up and then only we would be able to eradicate this social evil of selective sex selection and feticide.

Let us all women come forward and move toward new horizons and new Sun rise.

नजरें बदलीं तो नजारे बदल गए, किशतियाँ बदली तो किनारे बदल गए!

- Dr Maninder Ahuja

DO YOU KNOW?

India is not the only country where people desire a male child. There are some interesting and funny too facts given in ancient mythology which were practiced to have male baby in different countries. Some of them are.

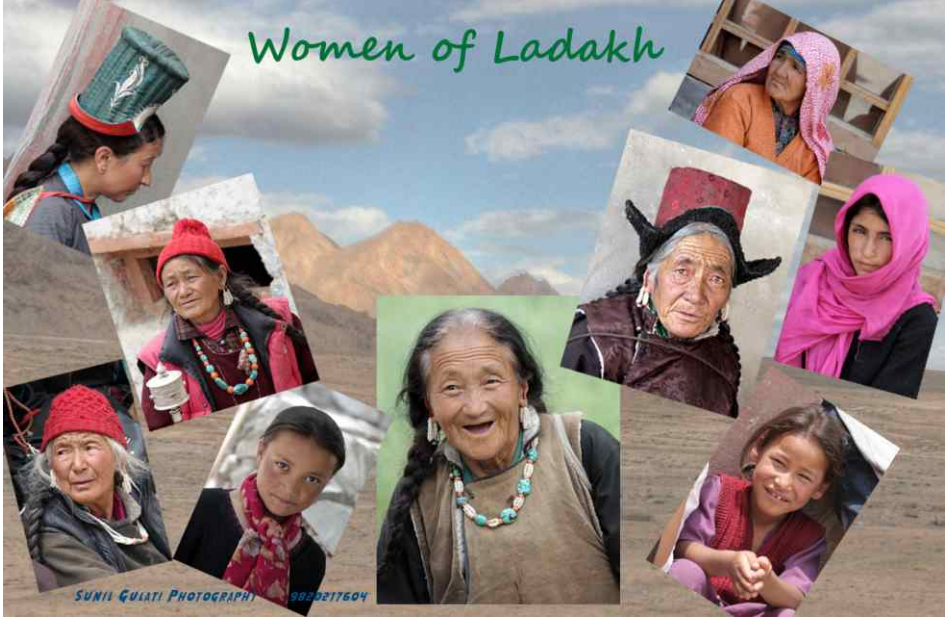
- The ancient Greeks believed that male determining sperm came from right testicle and so man can produce son while lying on his right side.
- In the 18th century, in France, men who desire a son should tie off their left testicle during intercourse. In medieval times the suggested formula became more bizarre: alchemists recommended drinking the blood of a lion and then having intercourse under a full moon.
- Chinese used a calendar method that relates the age of the wife with the month of conception.
- In the Jewish tradition, the gender selection is believed to be influenced by the sequence of orgasm.
- Ancient Egyptians believed that women of dark complexion were destined to have boys.

The above mentioned examples show how desperate mankind was, willing to tolerate unpleasant procedures, and to commit unusual and senseless practices in the hope of conceiving a male.

DR SHWETA GROVER

THE INDIAN GIRL CHILD

Photo Essay by Sunil Gulati



Mr. Sunil Gulati is a CEO of a leading Bank by profession. His passion for travel and photography (specially portraits) and his love for social service is depicted in the photographs. Like him on Face Book.

बेटियाँ

धर्म है लोक-लाज, शर्म है बेटियाँ
 घर-संसार को रहने लायक बनाती हैं बेटियाँ ।
 हालाँकी होती रौनक बेटियाँ घर की,
 फिर भी डांट-मारी जाती हैं बेटियाँ ।
 देता वह उनकी बलि भी जो न माती बेटियाँ,
 दिये कई नाम उन्हें माँ, बहन, पत्नी तो कुछ बाजारु भी
 लेकिन सब रूप उन्हीं के नाम है, जिनकी बेटियाँ,
 पूछता हर कोई ये प्रश्न आज एक-दूसरे से
 कोख में भी सुरक्षित क्यों नहीं हैं बेटियाँ,
 दो कुलों को तारने वाली कहलाती हैं जो
 फिर जलती हैं क्यों दहेज की आग में ये बेटियाँ
 होती ये दुनिया वीरान, बन जाती शमशान
 होती न जो ईश्वर का वरदान ये बेटियाँ.....



Dr. Mitu Khurana: The defender of India's baby girls

November 23, 2012 (Unmaskingchoice.ca) - One of the most remarkable stories shared in the new documentary "[It's a Girl!](#)" is that of Dr. Mitu Khurana and her daughters. Their story is shocking and distressing, exposing how the prejudice against female children permeates all levels of Indian society, while also being a testimony to the great love that a mother has for her children and how she can rise above her own fears to protect them.

In the fall of 2004, Dr. Khurana, a pediatrician, was married to Dr. Kamal Khurana, an orthopedic surgeon in Delhi, India. Shortly after, her in-laws started making demands for additions to her dowry - a new car, more jewelry, an apartment. They abused her when these demands weren't met by Mitu's parents.

In January of 2005, Mitu became pregnant. Upon hearing the news, her husband was initially very happy. That is, until her mother-in-law started demanding that a sex determination test be done. Mitu discovered she was carrying twins in February. If they were girls, her in-laws were determined that she should have an abortion of at least one but preferably both babies.

In an attempt to limit the high rate of sex-selective abortions committed against girls in India, the government has outlawed the sex determination test. Mitu refused to have the tests done and was severely persecuted by her husband and in-laws for her stubbornness. Finally, they locked her in a room and devised a plan. Mitu is allergic to eggs, so they baked a cake and told her it was egg-free, forcing her to eat it. That evening, she developed severe allergic symptoms but was denied medical aid until the next morning when she was brought to the hospital.

At the hospital, she was admitted to the labour room, even though she was only 16 weeks pregnant. The doctor who saw her ordered a series of tests, including ultrasound scans of her kidneys. They sedated Mitu and brought her to the ultrasound room where the doctor ended up doing a full fetal scan - revealing that she was carrying two baby girls.

Shortly after, she was discharged and sent home. The pressure was on for Mitu to consent to have an abortion. Mitu had been put on bed rest but her sister-in-law repeatedly made her clean the floors, in hopes of inducing a miscarriage. During an argument, her husband pushed her down a flight of stairs, then locked her in a room. Bruised and bleeding, she managed to call her father. Mitu told him that he had given her to death rather than marriage. He picked her up and brought her home the next morning.

Mitu was in and out of the hospital for the next couple months, while her in-laws refused to be in contact with her. When she gave birth, two months premature, Mitu was determined to help her in-laws find at least some love for her two innocent little girls, wanting the girls to have a father. She moved back in to her husband's home.

Things didn't improve. When the babies were four months old, one was thrown down a flight of stairs. Fortunately, Mitu was close by and caught her before there was serious harm done. The abuse continued for two more years as it became clear that Mitu's in-laws were not willing to accept the girls.

When Mitu's sister-in-law was about to be married, the dowry harassment began again as Mitu's in-laws demanded more from her parents, who refused to pay. After the wedding, it only took two months before Mitu's sister-in-law was back home, filing dowry harassment and domestic abuse against her husband. She got a divorce.

At this point, Mitu was no longer welcome in her husband's home. He hacked into her e-mail account and sent fake love letters to her brother-in-law to defame her, wanting a divorce so he could re-marry and have a son. His mother insisted on keeping all Mitu's dowry jewelry, which Mitu handed over, considering it a small price to pay for her daughters to have a stable home. Her husband took separate accommodations and Mitu was thrown out into the night.

Mitu filed a complaint under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC&PNDT Act) against her husband as well as the doctors and the hospital that performed the illegal sex-determination test. She was the first woman to do so in Delhi, more than 10 years after the Act was first passed. Its purpose is to regulate and prevent the mis-use of diagnostic tests. Mitu was told by the official on the case that she should "stop wasting her life and give her husband a son if he wanted one." To this day, no charges have actually been laid.

To pressure her, her husband filed a custody claim against her, having an apparent sudden change of heart about wanting the girls. Mitu lost her job and is still being harassed because she filed a suit against a big hospital. Most people feel she was in the wrong and her in-laws were justified in their desire for a boy.

Mitu continues to fight for her daughters and raises them in her parent's home. Her father has taken on twice the number of hours at work to support them. She is now a prominent activist against female gendercide in India, attempting to bring these horrific practices to an end. Her daughters are blessed to have a such courageous mother who loves them so deeply- not because they are girls, or despite that fact that they are girls, but because they are her children.

- ALANNA GOMEZ



DISCLAIMER : This story appears on Internet Save the Indian Girls Site and is sent to us by Alanna Gomez. FOGSI News Letter is highlighting this incidence as a point of Awareness, that the discrimination against girls & women is spread in Educated classes also.

Who will shoulder the blame for the MISSING GIRLS of India?

Dr. Jyotsna Diwan Mehta
Associate Professor,
Subodh Institute of Management
and Career Studies. Jaipur



In a country where women are said to be revered as Durga, worshipped as Laxmi, feared as Kali and respected as Saraswati, yes, in that very land, girls are trampled upon, taunted, tortured and cast aside... for being born a woman. Gender discrimination in our society is so entrenched, that it begins even before a girl is born. Girls face discrimination before birth, at birth, and throughout their lives. Even as you read this, somewhere a baby girl may be being throttled, poisoned or drowned in a bucket of water. Often the girls, who are allowed to live, get second-class treatment. In the villages of Rajasthan, it is not uncommon to find that while the boys are given rich, creamy milk to drink, the girls make do with watery buttermilk or chach! Often they are denied adequate medical and health care facilities; they are deprived of adequate nutrition, and get no educational facilities. They are often subject to physical and sexual abuse....and yes, all this continues to happen in the present day and is not part of some long forgotten history. Recall a few recent headlines:

A baby girl tied in polythene bag and dumped in a public dustbin left to be torn away by wild stray dogs in New Delhi.

Pieces of bones of newly born female foetuses were recovered from a hospital backyard in Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh in February 2008.

The bodies of more than 100 female foetuses were found outside an abortion clinic in Patran town in Punjab in August, a couple of years ago.

Today, more than a hundred million women are missing, only because their parents wanted a son. Despite the fact that a law banning sex selective abortion is in force for a decade, as many as half a million female foetuses are aborted each year in the country

India's girls are going missing,,,,, but they have not vanished overnight! These missing girls have become victims of female foeticide even before they were born. Foeticide is an act that causes the death of a fetus in the womb of the mother. When perfectly healthy female foetuses are aborted after about 18 weeks (or more) of gestation just because they are females, it is called female foeticide . What is especially cruel is that the same foetus would have been allowed to live, if it were male. Female foeticide is not just unethical but it is a savage act against nature and humanity. The tragedy is that it is perpetuated against the unborn child, by the very people that nature designated to nurture and Love her. The 2011 census reveals that the overall sex ratio in India is 940 females for every 1000 males. The figures in Rajasthan are even worse at 926 females for every 1000 males. This is a very sorry state indeed, as decades of sex determination tests and female foeticide of genocide proportions are catching up with India. Skewed sex ratios transcend state borders and there is ample evidence to suggest that the next census will reveal a further fall in child sex ratios throughout the country. More and more baby girls have either been aborted or killed as infants since 1961 and that this trend, alarmingly, is continuing. Indeed, an improvement in the child sex ratio has only been marked in one state, Kerala, and two Union Territories, Lakshwadeep and Puducherry. Everywhere else, in India there has been a decrease in the number of girls.

The greatest offenders are the northern and the western states, with Punjab and Haryana leading the pack. In Punjab, the child sex ratio has decreased by 77 points to a new and abysmal low of 798 females to a 1000 males, and Haryana has seen a decrease of 60 points, meaning there are now only 819 females to a 1000 males. With increasingly fewer girls in Haryana eligible Jat boys from Haryana travel 3,000 km across the country to southern states to find themselves a bride, as the only way to change their single status. Other offenders high on this List are Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh and Gujarat.

Despite these horrific numbers, foetal sex determination and sex selective abortion by unethical medical professionals has today grown into a Rs. 1,000 crore industry. Thus the social discrimination against women, already entrenched in Indian society, has been spurred on by technological developments that allow mobile clinics with ultra-sound facilities to drive into almost any village or neighborhood, unchecked.

Appeal to all of you

*Adopt a Girl's
education for
less than Rs. 20
a day*

*Send Rs. 6000/-
Contribute to
SMRITI*

Contributions given to Smriti for CAP & Drive for Awareness Programs

Ms Jaya Pancholy (USA)	Rs. 1 Lac
M/s. Mahindra Co.	Rs. 1 Lac
Smt Ramkali Devi Foundation Trust	Rs. 1 Lac
Geissman Family in memory of Phillippe	Rs. 2 Lacs
M/s. Gayatri Builders	Rs. 1 Lac

Your contributions are exempted under 80G of I.T.

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DONATE & EDUCATE A GIRL



HOW TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM?

How can a society expect to survive without women? Indeed various studies have clearly shown that having far fewer women in a society, leads to increased violence in a society, particularly against women. If the macabre practice continues, it would spell doom for both sons and daughters and will have a disastrous impact on the future generations. The battle against female foeticide has proved to be long drawn out. But some signs are visible that demonstrate that the fight can be won.

Two strategies may be identified to combat the problem of female foeticide, These are identified as the Positive Measures and the Preventive Measures.

POSITIVE MEASURES

Changing The Position of Women In Society

This refers to the efforts to improve the status of women in society. This can be done by:

- Focusing on the humanist, scientific and rational approach and moving away from the thinking that supports gender discrimination.
- Educating society and dealing with discriminatory practices such as dowry, etc.
- Empowerment of women through employment opportunities
- Education of women and empowerment including the right to property and land rights. It has been seen that States in the North East and in Kerala where women have these rights show a comparatively better sex ratio.

Simpler methods for complaint registration for all women, in case they are being pressurized by some family member, to go in for sex-selection or sex- determination. Changing The Mind-Set Of The Public This refers to increasing awareness about the problem and its consequences amongst the public. Creating publicity about the need to restore the dignity of women in society and shun any practice that violates a woman's right to life, through the media.

Public Service messages highlighting the fact that even though abortion is legal and permitted in our country, the fetus is a Living being who has the right to life too and therefore morally, abortion must only be an option upon medical advice, must be given.

Social advertising can also be used to show the negative impact that a skewed sex- ratio will have upon society- from increasing crime against women to creating entire villages without girls! Increasing awareness amongst the people through NGOs and other organizations about the importance of a healthy society with a well-balance sex -ratio.

Very few people are aware that if an ayurvedic practitioner offers to put some drops in the woman's nose which will help her in getting male child, it is a punishable offence. If a patient asks about the so called Chinese calendar to get a male child, explaining her how to calculate it is an offence! If a website mentions that a method to separate Y carrying sperms (for begetting a male off-spring) has been discovered, that too is an offense. In fact the public needs to be made aware that any action that takes away the right to life of a woman, born or unborn, is wrong and abhorrent.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The second strategy includes the following:

Creating laws, regulations and provisions governing the conduct of citizens, Doctors, and Technicians to prevent any incident of sex-selection, sex-determination or female foeticide, and ensuring that these are carried out in letter and in spirit.

Dr. Jagdish Singh, Professor & Unit Head, Department of Paediatrics, S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur points out, there exists well laid out legislation to deal with the issue. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act was passed in 1994 and subsequently rules were framed in 1996, The Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of foetus. It also prohibits any advertisements relating to pre-natal determination of sex and prescribes punishment for its contravention. The person who contravenes the provisions of this Act is punishable with imprisonment and fine. Recently, PNNDT Act and Rules have been amended keeping in view the emerging technologies for selection of sex before and after conception and problems faced in the working of implementation of the Act. These amendments have come into operation with effect from 14th February, 2003.

The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 provides for the regulation of the use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex linked disorders and for the prevention of the misuse of such techniques for the purpose of pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide; and, for matters connected with it. Yet, little had been done for the actual implementation of the act. Even in the year 1998, implanting authorities' recognized by the Act had not been appointed and clinics not only widely provided but some even blatantly advertised the availability of sex-determination tests.

In a recent landmark judgment the Mumbai High Court upheld an amendment to the PCPNDT Act banning sex selection treatment. The Court pronounced that pre- natal sex determination would be considered as grave as female foeticide. Pre-conception sex determination violated a woman's right to live and was against the Constitution, it said. Yet, there have been only two convictions -- a fine of 300 rupees (\$7) and another fine of 4,000 rupees (\$98) -- from over 400 cases lodged under the Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act. Doctors must be kept well informed about their responsibility in case they find themselves in a situation where a patient tells them that some sonologist has told her that her foetus is a girl child.

Doctors must be well aware of how to inform appropriate authority as per the Code of conduct, PNNDT Act, and must

- Ensure that no provision of the Act and these Rules are violated in any manner;
- Ensure that the person, conducting any techniques,



Stop female foeticide.
Issued in the public interest by Capital Advertising

test or procedure leading to detection of sex of foetus for purposes not covered under section 4(2) of the Act or selection of sex before or after conception is informed that such procedures lead to violation of the Act and these rules which are punishable offences.

- Help the Law enforcing agencies in bringing to book the violators of the provisions of the Act and these rules.
- A strong ethical code for doctors must be imparted and imbibed during their medical education.

Dr Ashok Gupta, Prof, of Paediatrics, Member Ethics Committee, SMS Medical College, Jaipur has raised an extremely important issue of Techno-ethics and the Medical Profession. He says that. "The medical profession and Ethics are no jiidf itjuib wn Lne contrary meaiane started out as an aspect of early philosophy. Most of the early medicinal oaths and treatises are focussed upon issues of medicinal responsibilities and doctor- patient relationships."

"Medical training needs to focus not only upon the clinical component but also on ethics, which shall result in the highest standards of medical management coupled with the sensitivity to the law of the land and the welfare of the patient in particular and society in general."

Instituting a simple process by which a Doctor can report any requests for sex-determination or sex-selection, so that after a doctor reports to the assigned person, he or she can focus on their main task of treating patients, and follow up is the responsibility of the assigned authority.

The President of the Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Society in Rajasthan, Dr. Sanjay Arya said that Private Centre Operators have given the state government, five suggestions to stop female foeticide

- 1) Sonography of a foetus over 10 weeks should not be allowed at Private Centres. If the foetus is more than 10 weeks then the sonography should only be performed after the recommendation of the District Hospital or the medical board of the Hospital attached to the Medical College
- 2) The advertisement and over-the-counter sale of abortion pills should be stopped.
- 3) If a girl child is born, then monitoring of her health should be done from birth until 5 years of age.
- 4) The death of a girl infant should be treated with the same seriousness as dowry deaths are treated.
- 5) If a pregnant lady requests for a sex determination then the doctor should anonymously report her to the authorities.

Regular appraisal and assessment of the indicators of the status of women such as sex ratio, female mortality, literacy and economic participation as well as tracking the activities of Diagnostic centres must be done.

These steps have been undertaken as individual initiative as was seen in the case of Hyderabad, where Arvind Kumar, the collector of Hyderabad district illustrated the power of the PDNT Act. Hyderabad had the lowest child sex ratio (0-6 years) in Andhra Pradesh. After taking over in 2004, he tracked down all 389 diagnostic clinics in the city and took action. 361 ultrasound scan centres were issued notices for non compliance with the PNDT Act. Licenses of 91 centres were cancelled. 83 machines were seized and 71 released after an undertaking and fine. Three suppliers were prosecuted for supplying machines to clinics with no registration licenses. Also with the help of public participation and involvement of NGOs some place like Nawanshahr in Punjab, have been able to make the ratio equal i.e. 1000 girls to 1000 boys. Lakhanpal, a small village in Punjab has turned the tide of male births for the first time. In a state that has the lowest sex ratio in the country, the village boasts of 1,400 girls for every 1000 boys.

CONCLUSION

It is unfortunate that the problem of rampant female foeticide has only become a much talked about issue once the problem has assumed draconian proportions. While the solutions have been discussed, it is clear that if the problem has to be rooted out, the main focus must be on Positive Measures along with the Preventive Measures. The Government and NGO seem to be exclusively focussing upon Preventive Measures. There must be a realization that while the law, regulations and rules are important, if we are to root out the problem from the very source, then we cannot ignore the positive measures. A Doctor is a part of one of the noblest professions. He or she is dedicated to alleviate suffering, combat disease and reduce suffering.....and yet, Doctors too are human....and therefore it is not

The Best Activities done under FOGSI–Mylan–Smriti "Operation Beti Bachaoo" Save the Girl Child Initiative Awards

Scope of activities : The activities to be considered for this award are primarily those conducted by the society and not those by individual members of the society

Eligibility : A society that is awarded the award for two consecutive years will not be eligible to apply for the prize a third year in succession

Judging : The judges will be the FOGSI President and preceding 4 past Presidents.

Total scoring out of 100 marks : For inclusion of issue as a part of regular society activities and activities with FOGSI and special effort and activities addressing issue of Saving the Girl Child.

Marks	Evaluation of each part
0	No work reported in this area
20	Minimum work
40	Satisfactory
60	Good
80	Excellent
100	Exceptional

Final scoring : The total marks of all the judges submitting the result for each prize

improbable that while the vast majority continues to serve humanity with the highest values of service, there may be the odd individual who stumbles in the ethical minefield, lured by material benefits. This definitely creates the imperative for preventive measures to be in place, so as to create a safety net for the cases of wrong conduct. Yet it is crucial to understand that creating and implementing preventive measures alone cannot tackle the problem. That can only be created by working positively towards a more wholesome and balanced society. As Mr. Mukesh Gupta, a businessman from Jaipur said. "Female foeticide is a social problem and not a medical problem. It will come to an end automatically like Sati Pratha, when people will realize it. As a member of society, I think we must try to stop the show-off which occurs during marriages and associated evils like dowry to restore dignity to girls in our country". Dr Anita Gour says that. "The parents of a girl child must be provided a proper counselling session to make them realize their mistake if they seem unhappy at her birth and regular workshops that discuss the problem may help in removing any insecurity those parents may harbour".

In fact, if we place the onus of the problem solely on the medical community and insist on excessive controls on them, the Doctors will not be able to do their job well. Take the example of Jaipur. Dr. Rajiv Tarrbi who runs a Diagnostic Centre in Jaipur, says that the recent Government

Dr. Ritu Joshi, a senior Gynaecologist and Chairperson Family Welfare Committee (FOGSI) points out that it is a well established fact that the ultra-sound examination is extremely useful and in many cases, vital for the Doctor to track the growth and development of the foetus. It becomes even more important in those cases where certain genetic or metabolic disorders, chromosomal abnormalities, congenital malformations or sex linked disorders may be suspected. There are 512 Sonography centres in Jaipur, of these 75 are in Private hospitals whereas 25 are in Government hospitals. 412 Sonography centers are in private clinics or charitable Trusts. On May 23'd 2012, in Jaipur, private centres and Doctors had stopped conducting foetal sonography after authorities raided these centres and registered cases against 56 of them, and only resumed foetal.



Congratulations! Dr. Jaideep & Dr. Narendra for adopting these 50 girls

DADDY'S GIRL

Her hair up in a pony tail,
her favorite dress tied with a bow.
Today was Daddy's Day at school,
and she couldn't wait to go.

But her mommy tried to tell her,
that she probably should stay home.
Why the kids might not understand,
if she went to school alone.

But she was not afraid;
she knew just what to say.
What to tell her classmates,
on the Daddy's Day.

But still her mommy worried,
for her to face this day alone.
And that was why once again,
she tried to keep her daughter home.

But the little girl went to school,
eager to tell them all.
About a dad she never sees,
a dad who never calls.

There were daddies along the wall in
back
for everyone to meet.
Children squirming impatiently,
anxious in their seats.

One by one the teacher called,
a student from the class.
To introduce their daddy
as seconds slowly passed.

At last the teacher called her name,
every child turned to stare.
Each of them were searching,
for a man who wasn't there.

"Where's her daddy at?"
she heard a boy call out.
"She probably doesn't have one,"
another student dared to shout.

And from somewhere near the back,
she heard a daddy say.
"Looks like another deadbeat dad,
too busy to waste his day."

The words did not offend her,
as she smiled at her friends.
And looked back at her teacher,
who told her to begin.

And with hands behind her back,
slowly she began to speak.
And out from the mouth of a child,
came words incredibly unique.

"My Daddy couldn't be here,
because he lives so far away.
But I know he wishes he could,
be with me on this day."

"And though you cannot meet him,
I wanted you to know.
All about my Daddy,
And how much he loves me so."

"He loved to tell me stories,
he taught me to ride my bike.
He surprised me with pink roses
and taught me to fly a kite."

"We used to share fudge sundaes,
and ice cream in a cone.
And though you cannot see him,
I'm not standing here alone."

"Cause my Daddy's always with me,
even though we are far apart.
I know because he told me,
he'll forever be here in my heart."

With that her little hand reached up,
and lay across her chest.
Feeling her own heartbeat,
beneath her favorite dress.

And from some where in the crowd of
dads,
her mother stood in tears.
Proudly watching her daughter,
who was wise beyond her years

For she stood up for the love,
of a man not in her life.
Doing what was best for her,
doing what was right.

And when she dropped her hand
back down,
staring straight into the crowd.
She finished with a voice so soft,
but its message clear and loud.

"I love my Daddy very much,
he's my shining star.
And he'd be here if he could,
but heavens much to far."

"Sometimes when I close my eyes,
it's like he never went away."
And then she closed her eyes,
and she saw him there that day.

And to her mother's amazement,
she witnessed with surprise.
A room full of Daddies and Children,
all starting to close their eyes.

Who knows what they saw before
them,
who knows what they felt inside.
Perhaps for merely a second,
they saw him at her side.

"I know you're with me Daddy,"
to the silence she called out.
And what happened next made
believers,
of those once filled with doubt.

Not one in that room could explain it,
for each of their eyes had been
closed.
But there placed on her desk,
was a beautiful pink rose.

And a child was blessed, if only for a
moment,
by the love of her shining bright star.
And given the gift of believing that,
Heaven is never too far.

Dedicated to all children that have
lost their Daddy or Mommy. Always
remember they will be in your hearts.

FOGSI-SMRITI-MYLAN-PHILLIPE AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY WORK ON SAVE THE GIRL CHILD BY FOGSI SOCIETY



GLOBAL EFFORTS & WALKS



The World is concerned about The missing Indian Girls : Are You?

- Dr Jaideep Malhotra



With Best Wishes & Courtesy from Mylan

THIS NEWS LETTER IS FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY AMONGST THE FOGSI MEMBERS.

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