**Girl Child in Contemporary India**

Abstract

Authors:

Dr. Lakshmipathi C. G.,

Associate Professor, Dept. of  Post Graduate Studies and Research in Sociology, Smt.V.H.D.Central Institute of Home Science, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore-560001, India.

Dr. Meraj Bano

Associate Professor, Dept. of  Post Graduate Studies and Research in Sociology, Smt.V.H.D.Central Institute of Home Science, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore-560001, India.

Ms Pauline Edwin,

Associate Professor, Dept. of Sociology, NMKRV College for Women, 8th Main Road, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 806340116, India. ‎

**Introduction**

One of the forceful pressures inflicted on the married women of the world over, and especially in the Third World Countries, is the marked preference for the male child. This pressure is both subtle and pervasive. Among the educated, urbanized professionals who tend to limit the size of their families, a daughter after a son or a son after a daughter brings a sense of completion. The Indian social system reinforces the negative attitude towards females in a number of ways. A female child experiences herself as being a liability and a burden. The family’s indifferent acceptance makes the female child realize that her status is secondary to that of the male child. The desirability in personal and social conduct is associated with adjustments and acceptance by the in-laws and with being successful in her stereotyped roles as wife and mother. The female child is also prevented from applying her intelligence to the living process of society.

The status of girl reflects the status of women in society. In rural India girls are deprived in many ways. For the average girl child in India, the privations of poverty are significantly aggravated by value systems and cultural practices which define and determine the role of women in society. Scarce resources are often preferentially invested in sons. Sons are considered to be the means for the socio-economic and spiritual advancement of their parents. In a developing country, the norms of the society itself have victimized and endangered the very existence of the female child in India.

The deterioration of women’s status and the emergence of female feticide is not a unique phenomenon confined to a particular state in India rather the trend is all over the country. Female infanticide has existed in India for centuries, now female feticide is rampant. In the light of the above the Paper is an attempt to highlight to some of the challenges that a girl goes through in India.

**Objectives of the Study:**

* To highlight the increasing demographic fundamentalism in many countries
* To analyze the issue of female deficit, its causes and consequences
* To create awareness about female feticide and infanticide
* To highlight the measures to deal with the problems of female feticide and infanticide

**Hypothesis:**

* “Gender–bias breeds an increase in female feticide and infanticide in contemporary India.”

**Methodology:**

* Respondents-100
* Sources of Data Collection:
* Primary-Tool is Questionnaire / Interview Schedule
* Secondary – Government Statistics, Reports from Health Dept., NGOs, Police Dept., Websites, Books, Journals, News Papers etc.