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## GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN INDIA AND THE ECONOMICS OF FEMALE FOETICIDE

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### Abstract:

*India is marching towards becoming a superpower. America has long back claimed that India is a developed country. It is a very sad thing that still there is gender discrimination in India. The women are given secondary treatment in the office and at home too. They are refused opportunities in all respects. The sad part about discrimination is it starts even before the birth of a woman, right at the stage of fetus.*

*India has been cursed with the serious problem of female foeticide. In many parts of the country girls are killed in the fetus stage only. A mother's womb is the most secure place, but even there a woman is now not safe. Perfectionist Aamir Khan highlighted this issue I on his program called "Satyamev Jayate" on Star TV dated 06/05/2012, this stirred the whole country. This research essay is a reaction to the same.*

### KEY WORDS:

Gender discrimination, embryo test, ultra-sound, female foeticide

### INTRODUCTION:

In 1901 behind 100 men the number of women was 972. It decreased in every decade and in the year 2001 it was 933. Though the number of girls was 940 in 2001 the number of girls in the age group of 0 to 6 years was very less. The man to woman ration has been adverse in the last 100 to 110 years. Why is there discrimination regarding women in Indian society? 2.5 Crore fetuses have been killed even before their birth. 10 thousand female fetuses are killed in the womb. The decreasing number of girls/women has become an economic and social problem. There is a possibility of a severe imbalance in society because of this problem. Female foeticide is a very disgraceful act.

The gender ratio is not in favour of women today. Gender ration means the percentage of men and women in India and also the percentage of women behind every thousand men. It is ideal that the percentage of women should be 950 to 1000 men. But such is not the case in India. The percentage of women are decreasing in India. The sex ratio is an important index to measure the man-woman equality.

### OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

1. Study the gender ration in Maharashtra and India.
2. Study the change in gender ratio
3. Study the reasons of decrease in the number of girls/women
4. Suggest a solution for this grave problem.

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**ASSUMPTIONS:**

1. There is an imbalance in men-women ratio
2. The percentage of Embryo test and female foeticide is more in literate and rich people.
3. The percentage of Embryo test and female foeticide is negligible in poor Adivasi tribes and places.

**STUDY METHODOLOGY:**

For the said study the secondary methods have been mainly used. This includes Manav Vikas Ahaval, Janaganana Ahaval (Census report), Lokrajya, magazines like Kurukshetra Samajkalyan etc., newspapers like Lokmat, Sakal, Deshdoot, Punyanagari etc.

**Percentage of men and women in the world:**

In most of the countries the percentage of men-women is in favour of women. However in developing countries this percentage is not in favour of women. Table no. 1 shows the percentage of men and women in the most populated countries.

**Table no. 1 Countries with more percentage of women**

Country	Russia	America	Brazil	Japan	Nigeria	Indonesia
Percentage of women	1140	1029	1025	1041	1016	1004

It is important that the society possesses an equal proportion of men and women. That means the number of men and women must be the same. Or behind 1000 men there should be 950 women. But table no. 1 shows that in the above 6 countries the number of women behind 1000 men is more. Table no. 2 shows the number of women in 4 countries out of 10 having more number of women.

**Table no. 2 Countries with less percentage of women**

Country	Bangladesh	China	Pakistan	India
Percentage of women	953	944	938	933

It is clear from table no. 2 that the number of women behind 1000 men is less in 4 out of 10 countries. According to the Census of 2001, the number of women in Bangladesh is 953, in China 944, in Pakistan 938, least in India 933. As against that the number of women in Russia is 1140, America 1029, Brazil 1025, Japan 1041, Nigeria 1016, Indonesia 1004.

**Ratio of men to women in India:**

The ratio of men to women in India is not very encouraging, it is indeed frightening. There are 15 States in India where this ratio is less than the national average. The sequenced in this case of States is Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttaranchal, Dadra and Haveli and Maharashtra. In these States there are less than 900 women behind 1000 men.

The child gender percentage situation in India (0 to 6) is more dangerous than this. In the year 1991 behind 1000 boys there were 945 girls. This number reduced to 927 in 2001. In 2011 the number decreased by 18 girls. In future India is going to face a very big financial and social crisis. In table no. 3 the child gender percentage is shown.

**Table no. 3 Child gender percentage (0 to**

City	Ahmedabad	Baroda	Rajkot	Delhi	Mumbai	Faridabad
Number of girls	814	873	844	850	898	856

According to Table no. 3 in the nations important for the nation compared to 1991, the child gender percentage in 2001 is less than 50. Behind 1000 men there are less than 800 women in developed and modern cities like Amritsar, Patiala, Ambala, Kurukshetra etc. For many reasons their number will reduce till marriage.

In table no. 4 the gender percentage as per State and Census report.

Table no. 4: Number of girls behind 1000 boys (0 to 6)

India	Census year				Decrease/increase in 2011 compared to 2001	Decrease/increase in 2011 compared to 1991	Decrease/increase in 2011 compared to 1981
	1981	1991	2001	2011			
India State	962	945	927	914	13	31	48
North West	945	922	889	875	14	47	70
Haryana	902	879	819	830	11	49	72
Himachal Pradesh	971	951	896	906	+10	45	65
Jammu Kashmir	964	No reply	941	859	82	-	105
Punjab	908	875	798	846	+48	29	62
Rajasthan	954	916	909	883	26	33	71
Gujarat	947	928	883	883	+03	42	61
Maharashtra	956	946	913	883	30	63	73
Goa	965	964	938	920	18	44	45
Chandigarh	907	899	845	867	+22	32	40
Delhi	926	915	868	867	01	48	59
Northern States	958	943	931	923	08	20	35
Uttaranchal	-	949	908	886	22	63	-
Uttar Pradesh	935	927	916	899	17	28	36
Bihar	981	953	942	933	09	20	48
Madhya Pradesh	977	941	932	912	20	29	65
Chhattisgarh	-	984	975	964	11	20	-
Jharkhand	-	979	965	943	22	36	-
Eastern States	964	967	957	942	15	25	22
Orissa	995	967	953	934	19	33	61
West Bengal	981	967	960	950	10	17	31
Southern States	978	962	952	948	04	14	30
Kerala	970	958	960	960	00	02	10
Karnataka	975	960	946	943	03	17	32
Tamilnadu	967	948	942	946	+04	02	21
Andhra Pradesh	993	975	961	943	18	32	49
North Eastern States	984	976	965	954	11	22	30
Assam	*	975	965	957	08	18	-
Arunachal Pradesh	997	982	964	960	04	22	37
Meghalaya	991	986	973	970	03	16	21
Manipur	986	974	957	934	23	40	52
Nagaland	988	993	964	944	20	49	44
Sikkim	978	965	963	944	19	21	34
Tripura	972	967	966	953	13	14	19
Mizoram	966	969	964	972	+08	03	14
Centrally governed states (including Delhi and Chandigarh)	978	970	963	934	29	36	44
Nicobar	978	973	957	966	+09	07	12
Dadra Nagar Haveli	993	1013	979	924	55	89	71
Daman and Diu	**	958	926	909	17	49	-
Lakshadweep	964	941	959	908	51	33	56
Pondicherry	975	963	967	965	02	02	10

Note: \* There was no Census. \*\* Included in Goa.

Source: Census 2011. Total population (forecasted number) Census India 1981, 1991, 2001, Series-1, Part 4.

It is clear from table no. 4 that on a national level there is a decrease of 48 girls compared to 1981. In comparison to 1991 the decrease is 31 and in comparison to 2011 13 girls are less. In 2011 behind 1000 boys there are only 914 girls.

The Southern States always give important to girls. They seem to be fond of girls. The number of girls has decreased considerably in the Northern States that is Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal and also Chandigarh and Delhi. However in the present decade the number of girls has reduced a lot in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Manipur, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland and in the Centrally Governed States of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep.

In table no. 5 the difference in percentage of girls as per Census on districts in Maharashtra has been shown with the changes.

**Table no.5 Number of girls in Maharashtra in the age group of 0 to 6 years**

Sr. No.	State	Census year			Decrease/increase in 2011 compared to 2001	Decrease/increase in 2011 compared to 1991	Decrease/increase in 2011 compared to 1981
		1991	2001	2011			
	District	1991	2001	2011			
1	Kolhapur	931	839	845*	+06	+92	-86
2	Sangli	934	851	861	+10	-83	-73
3	Ahmednagar	949	884	838*	-46	-65	-111
4	Satara	941	878	880	-02	-63	-61
5	Usmanabad	947	894	852	-42	-53	-62
6	Jalna	951	903	846	-57	-48	-105
7	Jalgaon	925	880	829*	-51	-45	-96
8	Beed	939	894	800*	-94	-45	-139
9	Aurangabad	933	890	848*	-42	-43	-85
10	Pune	943	902	872	-30	-41	-71
11	Solapur	935	895	871	-24	-40	-64
12	Dhule	947	907	875	-32	-40	-72
13	Buldhana	945	908	841*	-67	-37	-104
14	Nashik	954	920	882	-38	-34	-72
15	Nanded	960	936	897	-42	-31	-63
16	Hingoli	957	927	867	-60	-26	-90
17	Parbhani	956	923	965	-58	-33	-91
18	Latur	947	918	872	-46	-29	-75
19	Yavatmal	961	933	914	-19	-28	-47
20	Chandrapur	965	939	945	+06	-26	-20
21	Vardha	952	928	915	-13	-34	-37
22	Raigad	961	939	924	-15	-22	-37
23	Thane	952	931	918	-13	-29	-34
24	Gondia	978	958	944	-14	-20	-34
25	Nandurbar	977	961	932	-29	-16	-45
26	Sindhudurg	963	944	910	-34	-19	-53
27	Vasim	941	918	859	-59	-23	-82
28	Gadchiroli	980	966	956	-10	-14	-24
29	Mumbai	942	922	874	-48	-20	-68
30	Mumbai Suburb	930	923	910	-13	-13	-20
31	Amravati	950	941	927	-14	-09	-23
32	Nagpur	951	942	925	-17	-09	-26
33	Ratnagiri	961	952	939	-13	-09	-22
34	Bhandara	964	956	939	-17	-08	-25
35	Akola	929	933	900	-33	+04	-29
	Maharashtra	946	913	883	-30	-33	-63

It is clear from table no. 5 that in the year 1991 there were 946 girls behind 1000 boys. The number reduced to 913 in 2001 and in 2011 it is 883. The number of girls is reduced considerably on a state level. In comparison to 1991 the number of girls reduced by 33 in 2001 and in 2011 the number was less by 63. In 2011, number of girls reduced by 30 in 2011.

As per the Census of 2011 the decrease in the number of girls compared to boys is worrying in a modern state like Maharashtra. The six districts that are in danger zone are, Beed 800, Jalgaon 829, Buldhana 842, Ahmednagar 839, Kolhapur 845 and Aurangabad 848. From 1991 to 2011 in these 20 years the number of girls has decreased by maximum in the Beed district. During this period the number of girls



has reduced by 139 in Beed district. The number of girls is reduced considerably in Ahmednagar-111, Jalna-105, Buldhana-104, Jalgaon-96, Kolhapur-79. In this way behind 1000 men the number of women is decreasing and the economical and social balance is getting affected. Following are some of the events that occurred in some parts of India as an example.

1. There is mention of news in an old issue of "India Today". In the news called "missing girl child" a 27 year old Mechanical Engineer Shrimati Dhingra has been mentioned. She was educated and rich. But in spite of being a woman she got an abortion done not once but three times when she came to know that she was born a girl child. She wanted a boy as her first child. This proves that a woman is the foremost enemy of a woman.

2. This is an event from a place called Devada in Jaisalmer from Rajasthan. A marriage took place here after 110 years in 1997. That means in 11 decades only 2 girls were born. This proves that the female foeticide was being performed here. The place is so mean and the people staying there so cruel. However the people were proud to say, "There has been no marriage in our place for 100 years".

3. This is the story from Barmer district of Rajasthan. There are 200 Rajput families here. The average number of boys in this place is 2 to 4. And there are only 2 girls! It means behind 400 boys there are only two girls. The situation is thus very grim.

1. This is an event for the Dang district on the border of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Eight brothers from the same family had to marry the same girl because the number of women of marriage age was very less and that woman had to face this embarrassing situation in her life.

#### **The economics of female foeticide/embryo test:**

The female foeticide/embryo test, ultrasound, sonography, amniocentesis machines, gynaecologists, nurse, computer etc. is becoming a big industry at national level. Experts say that this industry is worth 200 to 300 Crores. Every year 10 thousand female foeticides are carried out. Embryo test costs Rs. 500 to Rs. 1000 and an abortion is done in Rs. 1000. The advertisement has the caption – "Spend Rs. 500 today and save Rs. 5 Lakh tomorrow (by way of marriage, dowry etc.)". The number of Sonography units in 2003 was 4600. This number has gone up to 7800. There are more than 2500 Sonography Centers in Mumbai and Thane area. Still Maharashtra has second number. In a place with 10,000 population you can easily find one Sonography Center. The business of female foeticide is worth 150 Crores. Many medical professionals and gynaecologists have become rich instantly. The economics behind this is less investment, less cost and more profit in less time.

The reasons behind the decreasing number of women/girls:

1. Embryo test and female foeticide.
2. The huge amount of money that needs to be spent on a girl's marriage and dowry.
3. Preference to men/boys, because they are considered as an heir and a support in old age.
4. Man-woman discrimination, secondary treatment to women.
5. Rape, sexual assault on women, ill treatment at in-laws place.
6. Lack of health facilities.
7. Lack of educational facilities for women.
8. Measures taken to reduce population.
9. Decision of not giving birth to girls to keep a small family.
10. A woman is a woman's enemy, so the girl to boy ratio is getting disproportionate.

#### **Man-woman ratio:**

Solutions to increase the number of women:

1. There should be restricted on Sonography or embryo test with ultrasound. The test should be done only if required. All this equipment should be connected via internet facility.
2. Strict punishment should be given considering the female foeticide as a serious offence.
3. Awareness among people should be done regarding this issue.
4. The customs like superstitions, the dowry should be stopped legally.
5. The ratio of women's literacy should be increased.
6. A "gender budget" should be prepared and implemented in the States. The couples giving birth to a girl

- should be encouraged by giving prizes in money form.
7. Stress should be given on women empowerment.
  8. Women should be filmed properly in Television serials and movies.
  9. The exploitation of women in any form should be stopped.
  10. The importance of women in society should be highlighted.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. It is clear from many events that a woman is a woman's enemy. Only a woman troubles another woman by harassing her with dowry, female foeticide, exploitation, etc.
2. The percentage of female foeticide is more in financially progressive areas. In the Adivasi area and poor regions the number of girls is more than the boys.
3. There have been 2 Crores cases of female foeticide in the last 2 to 3 decades. Everyday 150 girls are being killed before even coming to birth. If there are only 800 girls behind every 1000 boys, then in the coming 10 years 2 Crores of young men will not get wives for marrying. Thus there will no reproduction and number of girls will again decrease.
4. The buying and selling of women/girls have started in many places. From the State of Bihar thousands of girls are being purchased and taken to Haryana.
5. Girls are imported from Jalgaon and Chhattisgarh for Rs. 10,000/-.
6. There is a growth in events like sexual assault, rape, kidnapping, prostitutes and sale of women.

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