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## Problem of female foeticide in Maharashtra: A study

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### Abstract

In India, female infanticide and female foeticide (early deliberate cessation of females with in uterus) remain serious issues. Female infanticide has become an issue for centuries, owing to Indian humanity's authoritarian structure. Female infanticide is the purposeful murder of female babies. Sex homicide, or "gendercide," is another word for that too. Female infanticide is just an ancient phenomenon that seems to have certainly responsible for a number of male deaths through history. Female person who dies & female murder are common social problems throughout India, resulting to the nation's severe gender disparity.

Women, who help compensate half of the national species, have already been persecuted, bullied, constantly used despite the native land, regardless of religious affiliation that practice, and despite the time period in which they reside. Women face several difficulties wherever they go. Female consensual incest is now being fostered by gender selection methods, whereas female homicide is now being promoted by economical difficulties. Even if the government is a tremendous catalyst for public change, it really can solve this systemic issue in itself.

Crime against women is a complete shame. Female fetal homicide is one of most heinous types of abuse towards women because it precludes a woman and her most basic as well as foundational capacity, especially "her freedom to live." Sex legalized abortions as well as a rise in female slaughter instances have become major social issues in some areas of India. It cuts among all castes, religions, as well as communities, as well as the North-South divide. Before they're born, girl children become targets of attacks. This research conducts a theoretical analysis of the magnitude of female premeditated murder especially in the state of Maharashtra.

**Keywords:** Female foeticide, sex determinate test, infanticide, girl children

### 1. Introduction

Women, who make up a significant portion of the worldwide people, have indeed been harassed, tortured, and exploited irrespective of the nation they came from, their occupation, or the time period wherein they lived. Women encounter a variety of issues throughout the whole of the world. Female foeticide, the purposeful destruction of female fetuses or unborn infants after prenatal gender classification, consequently eradicating girl offspring before they are ever born, is not a new phenomenon in India (George., *et al.* 1998) [1]. Female foeticide one of the most heinous types of violence against women, in which a woman is, denied one of her most fundamental and necessary rights, "the right to life." Selective abortion has culminated in the disappearance of around 35 to 40 million girls and women among's populace.

The UN has expressed severe concern about the scenario. The long-standing tradition of giving precedence to boys, along with breakthroughs in medical knowledge, now enables Indian families of high social status to choose between paying a large dowry for their daughters or having their daughters removed. Female infanticide appears to have been a customary method of removing unwanted girl infants, in which the female baby was poisoned, allowed to choke on husk, or simply crushed beneath a charpoy after delivery. As pharmaceutical technology progresses, sophisticated techniques, or rather, inconsistently performed methods, can be utilised to eliminate her before she is born. The sex of the unborn child can be determined via imaging techniques other non - invasive prenatal testing during in the woman's pregnancy, as well as the baby can then be aborted if it is proven to be female. In recent years, female foeticide has now become a major subject in Indian society. From the moment she is born, a girl child in India is viewed as an unneeded responsibility, an extra mouth to feed, a financial strain, and later another man's ownership.

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Having a son is extremely important in Hinduism, and temples are packed with prayers and pricey sacrifices in the expectation of getting a male child. Advanced medical technology aids this religion-driven depreciation of women and girls.

Women are developed in the same way as men in every aspect. "On our globe, women have equal rights to men; women play a critical role in religion and faith."

The terms "female foeticide" and "female infanticide" are interchangeable. When a female infant is terminated in the mother's womb, it is known as female foeticide. Female infanticide, on the other hand, occurs when a newborn girl is murdered after she has been born. Our civilization has maintained the habit of murdering the female child after childbirth for many years. Foeticide, on the other hand, is a legacy and accomplishment of medical science's progress. In 1975, amniocentesis was originally used to identify fetal abnormalities, but it was immediately used for determining the gender of the infant. Selective abortion is a brutal and barbaric crime, while foeticide performed by experienced specialists is a medical procedure that employs scientific knowledge and strategies and removes the guilt connected with it. Misuse of technologies just maintains female children's second-class position, culminating in their marginalization before they've been born. Foeticide is a more widely recognised method of eliminating unwanted female children than infanticide. Ultrasound imaging gained immense popularity as a non-invasive method, and it is now available in even the most isolated rural places. Both technologies are currently being used to determine the gender of a pregnancy in order to terminate it if a female fetus is identified. Pre-implantation genetic procedures are becoming a major business in India as a result of privatization and commercialization. This is mostly for the goal of determining the gender of the foetus and performing selective abortion on that female foetus.

The 2001 government statistics, as well as recent news reports, depict a grim demographic picture of declining female-to-male ratios. Unexpectedly, contemporary states like Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, and Gujarat have taken the brunt of the damage. According to UNITED NATION criteria, men-women ratios in the globe are normally 1050 females for 1000 males. The ratio in India, on the other hand, is reaching 850 per 1000. In the Development Index Latest Survey, India is placed 124th out of 173 nations (Bandyopadhyay *et al.* 2003)<sup>[2]</sup>. It is undeniable that our nation lags far behind other nations in terms of schooling, healthcare, and discrimination against women. What are the primary causes of India's falling gender ratio? Female foeticide as well as female infanticide are to blame. Foeticide is the intentional killing of an innocent fetus. It even has ramifications for the mother's health.

### 1.1 Literature review

Women face numerous sorts of harassment in all communities throughout the world. Gender discriminatory abuse is one of them. Female foeticide & infanticide are two kinds of gender-selective violence common in underdeveloped nations such as India. It transcends barriers such as class, caste, and community. Until recently, this practice was limited to a few areas, but now it has expanded throughout the nation. Numerous academic investigations reveal that advances in current medical disciplines are being abused to determine the sex of the unborn with the purpose of having an abortion if it is female. Despite the passage of laws against it, this horrible crime has gone unpunished. While safeguarding

women's human rights has gotten great attention, some individuals also have gained the ability to be cruel & execute female foeticide as well as infanticide openly.

The study may also uncover current incidences of female infanticide in western Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh. Furthermore, female members of the group are often treated unfairly in terms of nutrition, medication, & instruction. Before they're even born, girl children become victims of violent crime. According to the researchers, after undergoing the prenatal diagnostic procedures, nearly all of the 15,914 abortions conducted through a well Abortion Centre in Mumbai between 1984-85 were of female foetuses. Furthermore, a survey conducted by a women's center in Mumbai discovered that 7,999 of the 8,000 fetuses terminated in six metropolitan clinics were female.

#### 1.1.1 Determinants and consequences of female infanticide & foeticide

Female foeticide as well as infanticide are caused by a variety of factors in India. According to these writers' research, the following are the major causes of female foeticide & infanticide:

1. **Son obsession:** Indian culture is paternal lineage, hierarchical, and controlled by a single person. The reproductive and inheritance concepts of Hindus are guided by Manu's rules. Hindus believe that the man cannot achieve atonement until he has a son to fire his funeral pyre. Apart from religious considerations, economic, social, and emotional wants favor men, since parents encourage sons but not girls to give financial assistance, particularly in old life.
2. **The girl was little more than a "hardship":** The immorality of the dowry concept has created the impression that daughters must be safeguarded and adequately available wherewithal gathered to finance the girl's marriage.
3. **Learning and sexual skew:** Contrary to the common opinion, Gita Aravamudan's study demonstrates a negative correlation between education & sexual skew. If a woman decides to have one kid, the more knowledgeable she is, the further likely someone is to deliberately pick a male.
4. **Women's marginalization in agriculture:** Despite contributing significantly more to agricultural productivity, women are by far the largest demographic of dispossessed workers with no genuine security.
5. **Misappropriation of new tech:** Techniques like amniotic fluid and ultrasound, which have been initially developed to discover congenital defects in the fetus, are now being used to determine the gender of the baby with the purpose of aborting it if it is female.
6. **Inadequate legal enforcement:** The Prenatal Screening Procedures (Control & Prohibition of Misuse) Act of 1994 makes determining the gender of the fetus illegal (Aithal *et al.* 2012)<sup>[3]</sup>. It also requires genetic counseling centers, hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes to be registered. Nevertheless, the law's execution is inadequate, and that has not been fully utilized. The emphasis has been solely on registering the quantity of medical instruments, rather than on the physical act of abortion.

### 1.2 Research gap

Research is a one-of-a-kind approach to express something in

new ways, recreate existing ideas in new ways, or find a new notion. Every researcher distinguishes himself by their research. As a result, the research gap serves as a bridge for the extension of previously unexplored concepts. So, here the researcher has investigated so many other research papers and found out some gaps which are given below:

- Lack of information
- Lack of government data
- Lack of systematic literature reviews
- Lack of systematic papers

### 1.3 Research question

1. What are the Govt. measures and initiatives that have been taken by the Maharashtra government?
2. What are the social impacts of female foeticide in India?

### 1.4 Research objectives

- To discuss about the problem of female foeticide in India.
- To signify the female foeticide issue in Maharashtra especially in rural areas.
- To identify the Govt. schemes and measures for controlling female foeticide in Maharashtra.
- To know about the social impact and causes of female foeticide in India.

### 1.5 Scope and Limitations

For any research, though it is primary or secondary the limitation is the relevant part that the researcher takes care of. While approaching the audience through the research work, the researcher needs to pay attention to every single in order to avoid making mistakes. As this is a secondary research paper, the researcher had to invest more time in the data collection methods as the researcher had to go through so many research articles and journals and news publications that had relevancy with the research topic. The other biggest limitation is that the results are not statistically significant thus the findings could not be scientifically used for interpretation.

## 2. Research methodology

### 2.1 Research method

Research methods and design are an important aspect of the research process because they allow the researcher to utilize a methodology or procedure to obtain solutions or answers to the research question that can then be interpreted further. The researcher evaluated this study using the secondary research approach.

### 2.2 Research approach

The research approach is a strategy and technique that includes general assumptions as well as precise methods of data gathering, analysis, and interpretation. As a result, it depends on the complexity of the research topic being addressed. The study technique is primarily separated into two categories: data gathering strategy and data processing or reasoning approach.

## 3. Analysis of the Study

### Q1. What are the govt. measures and initiatives that have been taken by the Maharashtra government?

Women, although contribution make up half of the current population species, have already been tormented, oppressed, as well as tormented regardless of national origin, culture, as well as time era wherein they existed. Women encounter several obstacles anywhere they go. Female foeticide is one of

most horrific types of exploitation toward women as it denies a woman her most fundamental and foundational right, namely "the right to life." Female foeticide is not a new phenomenon in India, when female embryos or unborn children are selectively removed during pre-natal sex estimate, hence cutting the number of girl kids before they will be ever conceived. Selective abortion cost the lives of around 35 to 40 million Indian girls as well as women. Only within some locations of the country have the teenager male-to-female ratios dipped below 800:1000 (Tandon *et al.* 2006) [4].

Female foeticide is the abortion of something like a female newborn in the womb of such a mother. Female infanticide, but at the other extreme, is the death of a baby girl after birth. My tribe has maintained the tradition of slaughtering a female kid after delivery for several years. Nonetheless, foeticide looks to be a vestige and also a commitment to the progress of rational inquiry.

In 1975, sonography was performed primarily to detect fetal defects, but it was swiftly extended for detecting the gender of the newborn. Sonography quickly became popular as a tractor trailer and is now obtainable in the most remote areas. Both techniques are used for determination of sex, with objective of terminating the pregnancy if the newborn is found to be about female.

The 1994 Diagnostics Technology (Control as well as Control of Usage) generally results to attain the following objectives.

1. Restrictions on use of pre-natal medical analysis to check an embryo or fetus sexual orientation, culminating into female gender-based violence.
2. Constraints on advertising detection/identification techniques.
3. Limiting all scientific use to the sole aim of discovering genomic instability and abnormalities.
4. Approval from an accredited institution can only be used in particular situations.
5. Penalty for violating the Act's restrictions; and
6. Imposing a precautionary penalty to dissuade serious acts as female foeticide.

### Request for PIL

Suggestion to the Government: Promote information of a processes that happened prior to determination of sex, notably female foeticide. Vigorously pursue the PNDT Act and the Rules established in 1996. Regulation 15 states that the number of time meetings of, for instance, the Advisory Group (Patil *et al.* 2014) [5]. Section 17 of both the PNDT Act to assist the same relevant agency should not surpass 60 days.

The below is a directive to the National Governing Council (CSB): The CSB will meet at least every six months, as defined by the Law. - The CSB will examine and supervise the Amendment's implementation. - The CSB shall designate all state/UT Responsible Agencies to send monthly results to the CSB.

The CSB shall investigate the need to modify the Acts in light of new technology including obstacles encountered in its administration, as well as make a recommendation to the National Government. This CSB will compel healthcare doctor ministries/departments to promote awareness against by the conduct of pre-natal determination of sex and code word and to oversee the Authority's application.

### Or before and pre-natal diagnostic procedures (Gender selection prohibition) acts of 2002

Parliament has approved the Pre conceived notions and Or

before Diagnostic Procedures (Prohibition of Sex Determination) Bill 2002 on December 20, 2002, based here on Supreme Court's decision as well as the Central Oversight Board's recommendation.

### Compulsory registration

All Genetic Consultation Centers, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic Centers, as well as Ultrasound Treatment centers, independent of whether they will be involved in gynecologic or some other diagnostic, will now be recorded on the basis of all testing done. Prenatal medical testing should only be used by authorized professionals. The reasons behind testing must always be documented and recorded.

### SLSB (State and local level supervisory body)

The act calls for the development of State And local level Supervision Bodies to supervise this Act's application. The Directors must meet as least once annually.

Punishment: Any breach of the Act, especially unregistered labs, ends in the removal of apparatus. The penalty for persons who engage in sex interview process has already been raised Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- (one lakh), without provisions dealing for restriction as well as revocation of certification as either a Health Practitioner but by relevant Medical Council or any other Regulating Organization (Ghosh., *et al.* 2009) <sup>[6]</sup>. The Act should really be corroborated by robustness outlined in the national apparatus.

### Fetal right to life

Article 14 of our Constitution protects the rights of all people, as well as Article 21 ensures the right to be alive in respect. Some of these rights are violated by sex recognition procedures. The right to privacy is such a well right that is acknowledged by many international conventions.

The notion of humanity is just a fiction and a judicial construct. Legal fiction really should not prevent its fetus from just being awarded rights. Refusal to recognize the rights of the embryo would entail discrimination, infringing on the equal protection established in Chapter 14 of the Indian Constitution.

## Q2. What are the social factors for female foeticide in India?

Despite almost sixty decades since independence as well as strong increases in medicine, economics, as well as other disciplines, overall picture that had seen of Urban India is not something that could be accepted, particularly in terms of its handling of the female sex (Tandon *et al.* 2006) <sup>[4]</sup>. Discrimination against girls, bad parenting towards teenage children, unwanted pregnancies, as well as female infanticide are all manifestations of the. Female includes: which is banned, was nevertheless practiced in this nation. There is a part of Indian society that is striving to be liberal in their thinking whilst mimicking Modern civilization.

Female foeticide seems to be the purposeful partial birth of such a girl developing fetus by the woman that once the kid's species has been established medically (Walia *et al.* 2005) <sup>[9]</sup>. This is done routinely under the pressure of the wife, throughout, or even the female's parents. The most common reason for abortion is an unintended pregnancy (Sorta-BiJac., *et al.*). Female foeticide, but at the other hand, is a much more horrible crime than the maturity level practise that murdering an undesirable kid before it can be born.

Variables Contribute to Female Unwanted pregnancies. Any immoral behaviour, like this one, has some age-old stupid

rationale behind all this, which its fanatical followers claim as true explanation. The major cause of female foeticide was found in social values and economic policies.

Elimination/removal of girls from the family tree before they've been born obviously indicates a strong predilection for a boy kid. The urge to prolong the family line through man being born is the main motive in nations where females happen as a result has gone undetected.

### Dowry arrangement

In India, the maturity level dowry framework lessens the emotions of couples who are 'lucky' with a girl child. Commence the computations for wedding costs straight away that might come after a few generations, succeeding the patient's maiden breathing.

Males are the stronger sex when it comes to the rank in a society, and it does not imply that transgender are indeed being eroded. But rather one grumbling regarding wasted chances, women can take positions as well as strive to take advantage of the opportunities they seek for oneself. This Utopian vision, however, is just not readily accomplished in actuality. Years of oppression have caused most women to feel insecure.

### Medical ethics

Since the legalization of abortion in India, illegal sex detection of babies has been widespread. Medical experts are only too happy to assist families in fulfilling their target of getting a new born boy (Jena *et al.* 2008) <sup>[11]</sup>. Female foeticide is freely addressed by many in the health profession, as well as pin posters inside specific institutions state, 'Pay Rs. 500/- today and save Rs. 500000/- hereafter.'

### Industrial innovation

The Industrialisation of the healthcare system has increased that selected sex abortion industry (Bano *et al.* 2021) <sup>[10]</sup>. Its use of CVS amniocentesis as well as ultrasound has allowed establishing the sex of the foetus easier than it used to be earlier.

### Consequences of female foeticide

The delayed consequences of the genocide are lethal and far-reaching, as Newton's Third Law of Movement explains, "for each and every activity, there is an equal and opposite response." The masses are typically unaware of the calamity they inadvertently invite by participating in female foeticide, since they are misled either by desire for an aggressive sexual identity to govern the family just after parents' deaths.

- Skewed Male-to-Female Ratio
- Trafficking of women and girls
- Rape and Assault are on the rise.
- Declining Population

Including those who genuinely think throughout the long-standing culture of preference for sons, that "only sons could indeed can provide Pyre Pindasana, Mukhagni but not the daughters" (Dagar *et al.* 2007) <sup>[7]</sup>, times might not be too far away when brides would not be available for the getting married of sons to sustain bloodline as well as proceed the humankind. As a result, it is believed that people's attitudes regarding the value of the female child in the family should be modified right away. It is critical to change the demographic makeup of's populace and also to address this heinous type of violence against women.

The T-test is a parametric statistical test for determining if

there is a significant difference between two sample means or between two samples' mean as well as population means. The t-test is part of the t distribution, which always seeks to determine whether two samples' means vary, and if so, whether the result is statistically significant. Only when the t score is connected with likelihood, i.e. less than .05 and .01, is the distinction between the parties means significant statistical.

Another feature of the t-test is that it allows for the development of hypotheses - H0 and H1. H1 is accepted and H0 is rejected when the scores are statistically significant. In the table below, the mean scores were shown using a graphical form.

**Difference scores calculations**

- N = Number of observation
- df = Degree of freedom
- M = Mean score
- SS = Standard deviation
- T value = T scale/obtained score in the t-test
- P value = Probability value
- H<sub>0</sub> = Null hypothesis
- H<sub>1</sub> = Alternative hypothesis

**Difference scores calculations**

**Treatment 1**

N<sub>1</sub>: 336  
 df<sub>1</sub> = N - 1 = 336 - 1 = 335  
 M<sub>1</sub>: 25.1  
 SS<sub>1</sub>: 15818.95  
 s<sup>2</sup><sub>1</sub> = SS<sub>1</sub>/(N - 1) = 15818.95/(336-1) = 47.22

**Treatment 2**

N<sub>2</sub>: 224  
 df<sub>2</sub> = N - 1 = 224 - 1 = 223  
 M<sub>2</sub>: 24.72  
 SS<sub>2</sub>: 10958.84  
 s<sup>2</sup><sub>2</sub> = SS<sub>2</sub>/(N - 1) = 10958.84/(224-1) = 49.14

**T-value calculation**

$$s^2_p = ((df_1/(df_1 + df_2)) * s^2_1) + ((df_2/(df_2 + df_1)) * s^2_2) = ((335/558) * 47.22) + ((223/558) * 49.14) = 47.99$$

$$s^2_{M1} = s^2_p/N_1 = 47.99/336 = 0.14$$

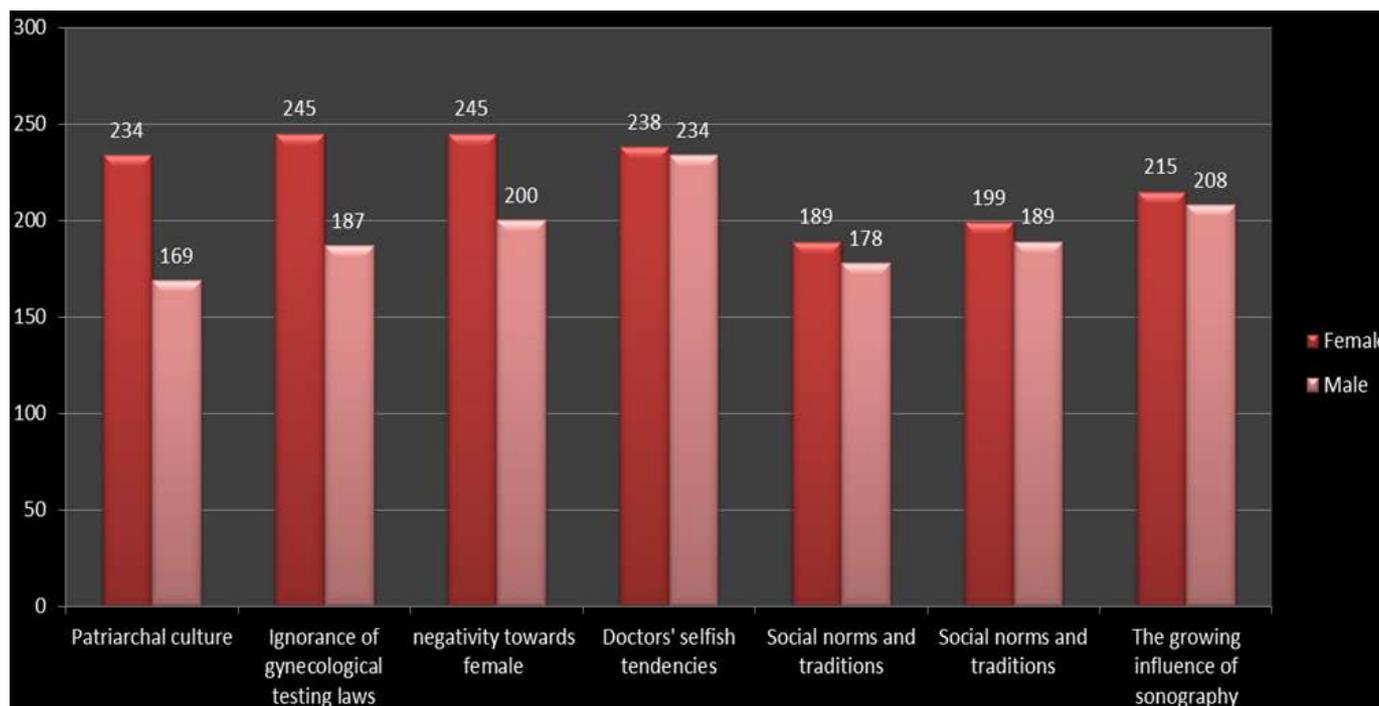
$$s^2_{M2} = s^2_p/N_2 = 47.99/224 = 0.21$$

$$t = (M_1 - M_2)/\sqrt{(s^2_{M1} + s^2_{M2})} = 0.37/\sqrt{0.36} = 0.62$$

The t-value is 0.62259. The p-value is .53381. The result is not significant at p<.05.

**4. Results and Conclusions**

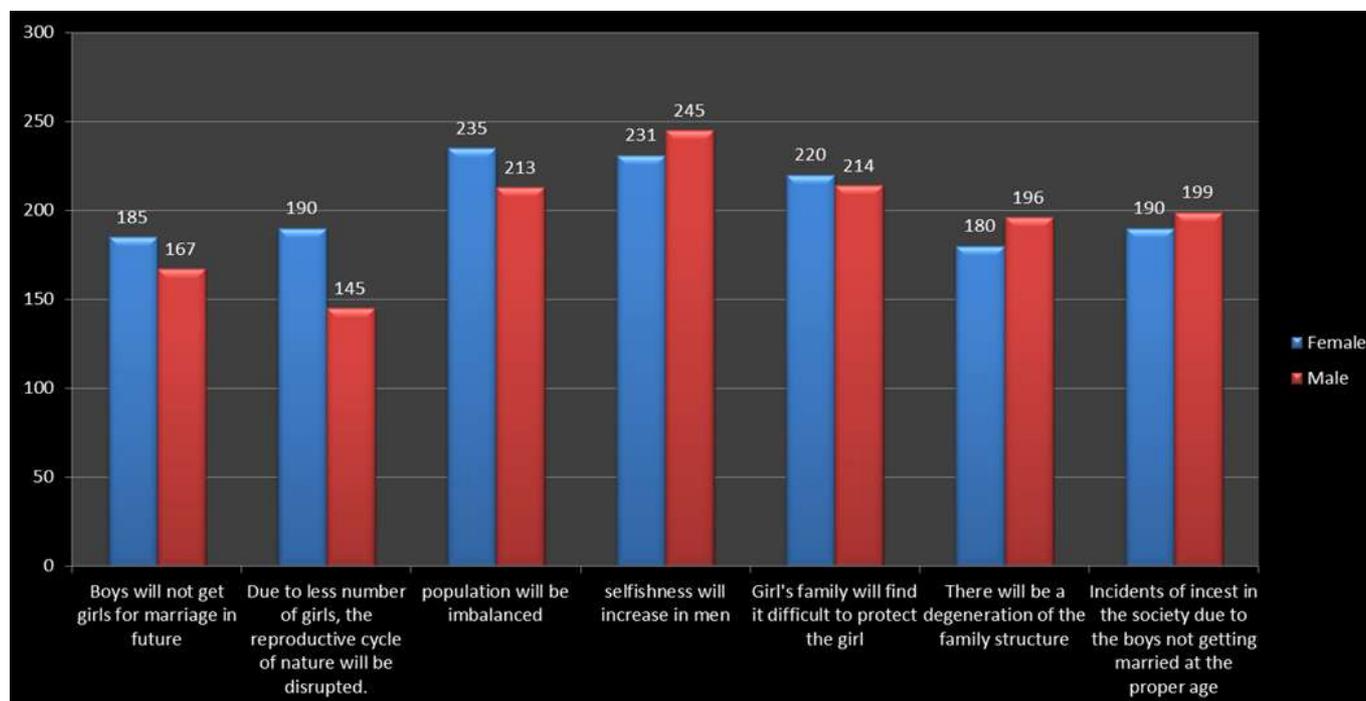
**4.1 Result**



**Fig 1:** Factors responsible for female foeticide

In this figure the result is showing the answers of the respondents among male and female category in order to point out the actual; answers that whether in Maharashtra the female foeticide has been done to a large extent or not. However the female group has very much supportive in explaining and giving responses as it is right that though

Maharashtra is a developed state in India but especially in the rural areas of Maharashtra there is a large quality of female foeticide due to so many social and economic factors as well. As per the respondents the data is being surveyed and explained by the government of India.



**Fig 2:** Effect of female feticide on male-female ratio in society and its consequences

According to this graph it is clear that in some questions like 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th the female participant support is high and other questions male participants support is little bit high. So mostly this can be concluded that both male and female on average support the statements.

#### 4.2 Conclusion

Female foeticide has arisen as a massive societal issue for Indian society over the years. In India, girls are treated as an additional burden, another extra stomach to support, a liability, as well as another man's stuff from birth. In Hinduism, having the birth of such a son is considered critical, therefore extensive sacrifices as well as extravagant gifts are performed in temples in the intention of attaining a male child. New healthcare science is now being misused and further the religiously driven devaluation of women and girls. Women are formed equal par with boys and men in every capacity. "Women have equal rights with men on Earth; they play an important role in politics and faith."

Divine necessarily demands that the interests of both parties be treated equally, because none is greater to the next in the sight of Heaven." Baha'is accept these official declarations from the Baha'i scriptures as representations of a Divine Will. To arbitrarily strip women of any privileges, or to prevent babies from being produced or to slaughter them from infancy, is both sinful and unjust, and a transgression of God's word. It has a negative impact on the economy, while those who engage in this act are responsible and accountable.

However, does Indian society recognize such actuality? If so, since when are female foeticide as well as female infanticide on the increase? Ever since start of the 20th century, the sex ratio has shifted continuously in advantage of males, with the effect being much more apparent in the province of Punjab, Haryana, particularly Delhi. Private embryonic sex-selective clinics were originally developed in these regions, as well as selective abortion became common in the 1990s 1970s. Worryingly, the increase is significantly more powerful in towns than in remote rural areas, and among intelligent women rather than impoverished women.

#### 4.3 Future scope

##### 4.3.1 Social action to curb female foeticide

People in both rural and urban regions must always be constantly reminded of something like the requirement for a female offspring in much the same social situation as a boy. Social issues can be addressed exclusively by meaningful legislation. People must be aware of progressive legislation that contains certain discouraging truths. Compulsion forces numerous women to undergo testing and seek abortions on both valid and unethical reasons. A new spirit must always be fostered in an attempt to increase awareness because having a female offspring is not a curse. It does not pose a risk. It does not kill the economy. It is not a device through which dowry must be paid term evolution under the legislation created to stop female foeticide, such activities will be outlawed. She must foster the sense that she has been the sister, the parent, as well as the life partner. Such behaviors will continue to succeed without social activity complemented by the quick implementation and enforcement restrictions intended to prevent female foeticide.

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