



## Addressing issues of Female Sex ratio in rural India - need for creation social Sustenance

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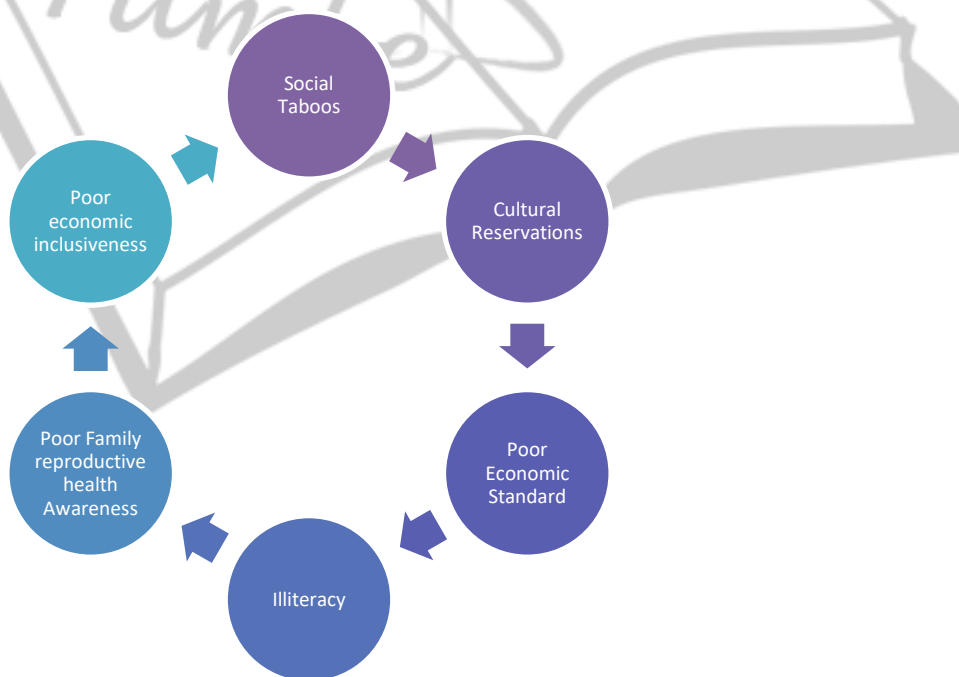
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### Abstract

This paper focuses on diminishing female sex ratio in rural India and spot lights on the need to creation of awareness among rural people about the effects of decreasing female sex ratio.. The female infanticide has been increasing in rural India at an alarming rate. Indian society is still reeling under the pressure of gender exclusiveness and nearly 50% of the women population in rural India do not have any property and proprietary rights. Urban Indian society still very recently marked the increasing number of female infanticide but the number of cases of infant mortality is recording increase in rural India. In spite of wide spread awareness creation through government , NGOs and such other agencies female number are coming down and this time rural India is seeing heavy differences in male female ratio. The decreasing levels of sex ratio is all alarming . It is also known that economic sustainability measures would support increasing female sex ratio. Besides, increasing female education and framing policies to ameliorate economic prospects of women might help to improve the ratio.

**Key words:** Female Sex ratio, rural India, creation of awareness

**Introduction:** Indian rural society has been witnessing a diminishing female number as compared to male number. There are several reasons which are causing decrease in number of females. As shown in this diagram



1.	<b>Social Taboos</b>	Son preference , male domination , patriarchal ideology ,
2.	<b>Cultural Reservations</b>	The ideology towards raising a female child is still covered with taboos. Indian societal attitudes towards female child is very narrow.
3.	<b>Poor Economic Standard</b>	Very few opportunities for women to gain economic support in a male dominated society.
4.	<b>Illiteracy</b>	Women are still lagging behind in gaining access to educational facilities.
5.	<b>Poor Family reproductive health Awareness</b>	Women both urban and rural women have very poor Family reproductive health awareness.
6.	<b>Poor economic inclusiveness</b>	Rural women do not enjoy any economic inclusiveness

**State wise ration chart-** The sex ratio debates in India are very high but the following table reflects the exact pathetic situation state wise. The fact that there is rise in female infanticide in rural India is very alarming. The Indian sex ratio is out of 1000 males 924 females. But at the same time this number is out of 1000 males in rural India there are only 918 females. to take the case of Tamil nadu there are 939 females in urban center at

	STATE	RURAL	URABN	TOTAL
SL NO	STATE	RURAL	URABN	TOTAL
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	890	924	912
2	ASSAM	905	914	908
3	BIHAR	939	936	938
4	CHATTIS GARH	950	926	939
5	DEHLI	913	925	924
6	GUJARAT	914	889	897
7	HARIYANA	901	904	903
8	HIMACHAL PRADEHS	926	929	928
9	JAMMU	967	927	952
10	JHARKHAND	885	843	871
11	KARNATAKA	951	935	938
12	KERAL	967	961	963
13	MADHYA PRDESH	897	903	901
14	MAHARSTRA	902	920	916
15	ORISSA	911	911	911
16	PUNJAB	898	891	892
17	RAJSTHAN	882	891	892
18	TAMIL ADU	901	939	930
19	TELENGANA	921	925	924
20	UTTAR PRADESH	930	907	922
21	UTTARAKHAND	962	938	948
22	WEST BENGAL	984	930	958
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>921</b>

the same time there are 901 females born in rural Tamil nadu the other states which are influenced after Tamil nadu are Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

**Source: Census of 2011 Official website 2020**

### **The case of decreasing fertility-**

The fertility has been declining in India. The sample registration system statistical report of 2018 estimated the total fertility rate, the number of children a mother would have at the current a pattern of fertility during her life time as 2.2 in the year 2018. Fertility is likely to continue to decline. It is estimated that replacement TFR of 2.1 would soon be reached for India as a whole. This is not so because of the population momentum effect a result of more people entering the reproductive age group of 15-49 years due to the past high level of fertility.

For instance the replacement fertility level was reached in Kerala around 1990 but its annual population growth rate was 0.7 percent in 2018 The UN population division has estimated that India's population would possibly peak at 161 crore around 2061 The normal sex ratio would be 1050 males to 1000 females. There is considerable son preference in all states except in Kerala and Chhattisgarh The UNFPA state of the world population 2020 estimated the sex ratio at birth in India as 910 lower than the all the countries in the world except china.

It is also known that economic sustainability measures would support increasing female sex ratio. Besides, increasing female education and economic prosperity help to improve the ratio. It is hoped that a balanced sex ratio at birth could be realized over time although this does seem to be happening during the period 2011-18

**Son preference-** Son preference is resulting in gender biased sex selection government actions need to be supplemented by improving women's status in the society. The preference for son is motivated by economic, religious, social and emotional desires and norms that favor males and make females less desirable. It is known that in Rural India too parents expect sons—but not daughters—to provide financial and emotional care, especially in their old age; sons add to family wealth and property while daughters drain it through dowries; sons continue the family lineage while daughters are married away to another household; sons perform important religious roles; and sons defend or exercise the family's power while daughters have to be defended and protected, creating a perceived burden on the poor households. Increasing concerns about

1.	<b>Human trafficking ,</b>
2.	<b>Women harassment ,</b>
3.	<b>Sexual violence ,</b>
4.	<b>Domestic violence against women</b>
5.	<b>Discriminatory attitude</b>
6.	<b>Prejudicial attitude</b>

add to the worries of the parents and make them prefer male child.

### **Legislative acts for supporting women-**

1.	Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act: A.
2.	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act:

3.	Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act:
4.	Dowry Prohibition Act: .
5.	Maternity Benefit Act:
6.	Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act:
7.	Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act:
8.	Equal Remuneration Act:
9.	Family Courts Act: .
10.	Legal Services Authorities Act:

### Legislative support

1. **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act:** A comprehensive legislation is essential to protect Indian women from different types of domestic violence. It ensures protection for women who are in a relationship and are subjected to constant physical, mental, sexual, verbal and emotional violence.
2. **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act:** It helps in protecting women from trafficking for the purpose of prostitution as an organised means of living.
3. **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act:** It prevents improper representation of women via any advertisement or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner.
4. **Dowry Prohibition Act:** It prohibits the giving or taking of dowry at or before or any time after the marriage from women.
5. **Maternity Benefit Act:** This ensures that women working in establishments for decided time (both before and after childbirth) are entitled to maternity and other benefits.
6. **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act:** This allows the termination of certain cases of pregnancies by registered doctors on humanitarian and medical grounds.
7. **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act:** This will prevent of sex selection before or after a woman conceives. This will reduce unwanted and illegal abortions in the country.
8. **Equal Remuneration Act:** This ensures payment of equal remuneration to both men and women workers for the same work or work of a similar nature. In the context of recruitment and service conditions, there will be no discrimination on the basis of gender.
9. **Family Courts Act:** It provides for the establishment of Family Courts for speedy settlement of family disputes.
10. **Legal Services Authorities Act:** This provides for free legal services to Indian women.

11. **Hindu Marriage Act:** This has been instrumental in introducing monogamy and allowed divorce on certain specified grounds. This law has helped in bringing Indian man and woman on the same platform in terms of marriage and divorce.
12. **Hindu Succession Act:** This recognises the right of women to inherit parental property equally with men.
13. **Minimum Wages Act:** This does not allow discrimination between male and female workers or different minimum wages for them.
14. **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act:** This will make provisions that there is no sexual harassment against women at workplaces both in public and private sector.

There is an urgent need to reach young people both for reproductive health education and services as well as to cultivate gender equity norms. This could reduce the effect of population's momentum and accelerate progress towards reaching a more normal sex ratio at birth. All need to know that Indian population future depends on it.

**Conclusion:** Thus, the creation of societal awareness is very important and the public participation along with Government initiatives is very important. All the stake holders of the community need to involve in implementation of all policies towards creation of universal awareness. The fact that female infanticide has been increasing in rural India at an alarming rate needs to be considered seriously through mass women organizations, self help groups, and women rural associations. Indian policy makers need to extend policy support rural Indian women about property and proprietary rights. If women are supported with basic information about financial inclusiveness, they can make positive moves towards educating their children and this education supports them with proper thinking. India needs people who can think positively and help the nation grow constructively.

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