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**Chhatrapati Shahu Institute of Business  
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# Threat of Female Foeticide on Women's Health and Society

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**Abstract:** Female Foeticide and infanticide are not the only issues with girl children in India. At every stage of their life, she is discriminated against and neglected for basic nutrition, education, and living standard. When she was in the womb, she was forced to miss the movement when she was supposed to enter the world. At the time of birth, her relatives pulled her back and wrung her neck. After killing her she was thrown into a trash can. The nation of mothers still follows a culture where people idolizes son and mourns daughters. UN figures out that about 750,000 girls are aborted every year in India.

In the present global scenario some of the worst gender ratios, indicating gross violation of women's rights, are found in South and East Asian countries such as India and China. The determination of the sex of the fetus by ultrasound scanning, amniocentesis, and in vitro fertilization has aggravated this situation. No moral or ethical principle supports such a procedure for gender identification. The situation is further worsened by a lack of awareness of women's rights and the indifferent attitude of governments and medical professionals towards the issue.

The present study helped to understand the extent of Female Foeticide which disturbs not only the natural sex ratio in society by reducing the number of women as compared to men but also effect the Health of existing women in our society. And from asocial perspective in a couple of decades, such sex-selective abortions will lead to a worsening of the situation where men would not have a wife, a sister, a daughter, and above all their very existence would be a threat. This could also lead to an-increase in crime rates like women trafficking, and brutal violence against women.

**Keywords:** Female Foeticide, Sex Ratio, Sex Selection Abortion.

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## 1.0 Introduction:

In our Indian culture, the girl child represents beauty, auspiciousness and prosperity. Throughout the ages, parents have loved their daughters as much, and sometimes more than their sons. It was natural for the Vedic Aryans to have this preference because a pastoral society of a warrior needed men for the protection of the race and survival in new country. Yet, Vedic literature does not bemoan the birth of a girl child. In fact, special mantras exist in the Rug-Veda, the recitation of which is supposed to lead to the birth of a girl child who will grow up to be a learned lady. Accordingly, Namkaran (Naming

ceremony) was conducted for a girl child and there are instances of Yajnopavit being performed for them.

**Selection Of Topic:** Female Foeticide refers to sex-selective abortion, conducted to avoid the birth of a girl child. Female Foeticide begins with the illegal determination sex of the fetus. This is followed by illegal termination of pregnancy. Thus, there is aviolation of two laws regarding female Foeticide. First, there is the illegal determination of the sex of the fetus. Second, there is illegal termination of pregnancy. Female Foeticide disturbs the natural sex ratio in society and reduces the number of women

as compared to men in society. Clearly, in a couple of decades, sex-selective abortions could lead to a situation where men may not find brides to marry. This could lead to the trafficking of women; or worse violence against women.

Combating female Foeticide is challenging. Though there is a law against sex determination and illegal abortions, there is widespread tolerance if not acceptance of female Foeticide. Moreover, there is widespread corruption, both in the availability of medical professionals, willing to violate the law and corruption among law enforcement authorities.

## 2.0 Objective Of The Study

- To study and identify the extent and incidence of female Foeticide in Kolhapur
- To study the causes of female Foeticide, legal, awareness and its impact on women's health and society
- To suggest social work interventions in curbing this issue.

## 3.0 Research Methodology Adopted:

This is an **Exploratory Research Design** as no study has been done in Kolhapur to the best of the researcher's knowledge from a social work perspective. The **universe** for the present study consisted of the adult population in 20 years group and above in Kolhapur city. The researcher has applied the **Stratified Sampling Method** in selecting the respondents from various strata of the universe like lawyers, doctors, police, reporters, counsellors, Matrimonial service providers, Social Workers etc. The researcher selected a sample size of 200 respondents using the Simple **Random Sampling Method** from the strata. The sample size varied due to the availability of the respondents from the selected strata. 25 respondents each from lawyers,

Doctors, Police, Social workers, press reporters, and Matrimonial service providers, and 10 each from a counsellor, etc. were selected as a sample.

The **geographical scope** of the study covered all the professional and non-professional populations residing in Kolhapur City. The **topical scope** covered the threat of Female Foeticide on women's health and society. The **analytical scope** covered the fulfillment of objectives set out for the study. The **functional scope** is confined to rendering a set of appropriate suggestions for ensuring control of female Foeticide and protecting the health of the pregnant mother and their child.

To elicit the relevant data from the selected respondents, A '5-point scale' Questionnaire as a tool was opted for the collection of primary data in the form of 1.-Strongly agree, 2-Agree, 3-Neutral, 4-Disagree and 5-Strongly disagree. Apart from this Interview technique, Observation and general discussion methods were also applied to elicit data as and when it was required from the respondents.

## 4.0 Major Findings:

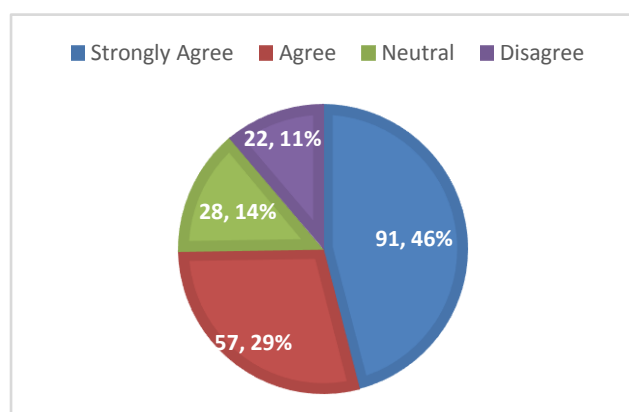
- The majority of respondents 81% were in age group of 35 and above years and had knowledge about this issue as well the awareness of PCPNDT Act.
- 87% of respondents are aware about sex ratio information of population and that sex ratio Sex determination is an illegal crime, 79.5% of respondents are aware of the punishment of sex determination testing and the incidence is largely dependent on the family's attitude
- 95.5% of respondents strongly agreed that Female Foeticide is a big threat to future generations
- 95% strongly agreed that parents think a girl child is big responsibility of their

life and don't want to take responsibility of the girl child. This is attributed to multiple reasons like dowry, safety etc., in bringing up a Female Child. Additionally, a belief that a Male child would be the backbone for old age and the one who would execute the final rites for the souls of late parents and ancestors creates a lean towards Male children.

- 96% strongly agreed that Many of parents have a negative attitude about nurturing a girl child as they feel she cannot protect herself and the girl child is not safe in our society.

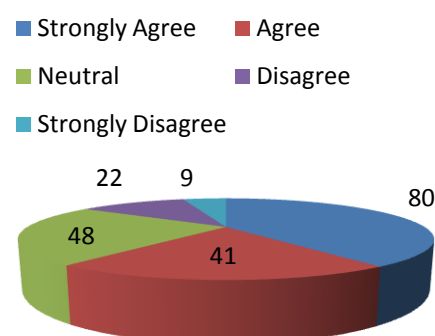
### Female Foeticide effect on the mother's Health

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	91	45.5
Agree	57	28.5
Neutral	28	14.0
Disagree	22	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>



### Women Coerce Women to Accept Female Foeticide

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	80	40.0
Agree	41	20.5
Neutral	48	24.0
Disagree	22	11.0
Strongly Disagree	9	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>



### Female Foeticide causes poor physical & mental health in women

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	89	44.5 %
Agree	63	31.5 %
Neutral	32	16 %
Disagree	15	7.5 %
Strongly Disagree	1	0.5 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>