There is no denying the fact that women are the deprived section of the society. Despite the fact that so much has been done to upgrade their condition; many legal reforms have come into existence; so that women may find a better place in society; their level can be uplifted, still their condition is still miserable. They are not at par with men in each and every field. The crimes against women are still on the rise and that day is not far away when women would find their existence on this planet entirely in jeopardy. The scenario is very bleak; there are no prospects of a bright future for them; their life is in troubled water and if they are not fended off from external and internal assaults, their life would be no better than a creature who struggles for his existence. Women are the victims of patriarchy; a system of society where only males take precedence over everything. Among various problems that she faces there is one menace of female foeticide which is the most heinous one. Female foeticide means killing the baby girl before her birth; it is like cutting a plant before it can flourish and attain full growth.

Female foeticide, patriarchal set up, medical for termination of pregnancy (MTP), adverse sex ratio.

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**ABSTRACT**
There is no denying the fact that women are the deprived section of the society. Despite the fact that so much has been done to upgrade their condition; many legal reforms have come into existence; so that women may find a better place in society; their level can be uplifted, still their condition is still miserable. They are not at par with men in each and every field. The crimes against women are still on the rise and that day is not far away when women would find their existence on this planet entirely in jeopardy. The scenario is very bleak; there are no prospects of a bright future for them; their life is in troubled water and if they are not fended off from external and internal assaults, their life would be no better than a creature who struggles for his existence. Women are the victims of patriarchy; a system of society where only males take precedence over everything. Among various problems that she faces there is one menace of female foeticide which is the most heinous one. Female foeticide means killing the baby girl before her birth; it is like cutting a plant before it can flourish and attain full growth.

There was a time when the prestige of our country India was so glorious that the world used to look at us and wonder. Indian Vedantic philosophy has not guided its own people; rather the people all over the world have been seeking guidance from it. But due to certain vices, now the scenario is so unpleasant, the image of the country has been defiled and the stains of dishonor are shining with a villain’s grin. Once the people of the country used to honour the girls as they consider them ‘Devi’; a goddess, worthy to be worshipped by all. Tests like Ultra- sound, CT scan, MRI, foetoscopy, Sonography etc. help in diagnosing the sex of the foetus. But due to female foeticide the sex ratio of girls is mitigating day by day. This practice has come under severe criticism from all the corners of the world. Earlier the girls after their birth were put to death; a practice which was known as female infanticide, a practice which was in vogue in the Rajput reign in India. But with the advancement and progress in science and Technology, the situation has aggravated more. Now with the help of new devices and tests, it is feasible to peep into the stomach of a lady. Tests like Ultra- sound, CT scan, MRI, foetoscopy, Sonography etc. help in diagnosing the sex of the foetus. Consequently parents, who are averse to the
married of. 4 and it is the most futile investment as a daughter has to be the opinion that upbringing of the girl child is very expensive the world. Srivastava et al (2005) found that parents are of in-laws, that is why a girl is not allowed to see the light of collect such a huge dowry to satisfy the lust of husband and to amass a huge amount of dowry and how can a poor man form of female foeticide. To get a daughter married, one has to amass a huge amount of dowry and how can a poor man collect such a huge dowry to satisfy the lust of husband and in-laws, that is why a girl is not allowed to see the light of the world. Srivastava et al (2005) found that parents are of the opinion that upbringging of the girl child is very expensive and it is the most futile investment as a daughter has to be married of. 4

Moreover illiteracy is another major reason of female foetici- cide. An illiterate man fails to understand that both a boy and girl are equal. Both are the gifts from God. They should be treated equally. A poor man believes that a boy can help in earning the bread for the family. It is generally believed that daughter brings nothing but misfortunes with her lot. So par- ents prefer to abort her instead of giving birth to her. What- ever the reasons the parents may furnish, it is an agreeable point that their doing can never be justified on any point. Legally as well as morally they are sinners. They are criminal as it is equal to killing a living person. The reasons for taking such a step may seem convincing in the case of dowry but still no one has the right to kill any other person. Not only the parents who go for it rather the doctor, relatives, friends who aid directly or obliquely share equal responsibility.

Ashu (2012) reported that 78% of women favoured female foeticide. 64% women feel that the parents should decide if they want a girl or a boy so that they can have one girl and one boy. As far as mother-in-laws are concerned, 12% believe that female foeticides are not wrong and 78% neither approved of female foeticide nor did they call it wrong, 77% of daughter-in-laws disapproved of female foeticide. Six vil- lages of Ludhiana were covered in the study. 5

Some of the most gender ratios, indicating gross violation of women’s rights, are found in South and East Asian coun- tries such as India and China. Sex ratio of Rajasthan dipped to 883 girls per 1,000 boys in 2011 from 901 girls to 1000 boys in 2001. Female foeticide would adversely impact the society and would add to the number of crimes. Unequal sex ratio would multiply chances of rape, prostitution, violence against women, sale purchase of women, women bondages and slavery system etc. As a result of this vice, the eligible number of men to be married would be more than the girls. Men would find themselves in soup as they would find no brides for them. This would compel them to take resort to buy brides for them. Cases of women trafficking are being re- ported all over the country. Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bi- har are the worst hit areas. Child marriages would give rise to number of problems like child pregnancies which would have a devastating consequence. As the sex ratio of girls is on the low ebb as a consequence of female foeticide, the number of girls would dramatically lessen. Population of country would decline. There would be no girls who would give birth to chil- dren as a result of this vice.

The Problem of female foeticide should be solved on the top priority basis. Government is already putting its efforts in this regard. Female foeticide is declared as a legal crime. Pre-natal Sex determination test is also illegal. Awareness is being spread by media and Indian Film Industry to end this prac- tice. Aamir Khan’s first ever episode of his show “Satyamev Jayate” was “Daughters Are Precious”. Indian people have to come out of Manu’s philosophy, “No act is to be done ac- cording to her own will by a young girl, a young woman, or even by an old woman, though in their own houses.”6

One can pray that God bestows humans with the wisdom so that he ceases the atrocities against women:
To kill their smile is a sin
Let them live and be born
Teach your kith and kin
To save girls they are sworn.
(Self-Composed)