



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO FEMALE FETICIDE AND ATTITUDE RELATED TO GENDER PREFERENCE AMONG WOMEN IN THE REPRODUCTIVE AGE GROUP (18-45 YEARS) OF A SELECTED COMMUNITY, GURUGRAM, HARYANA.

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ABSTRACT The present study was done to assess the knowledge related to female foeticide and attitude related to gender preference and to find out the association between knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables among women in the reproductive age group the sample consist of 50 women of age group from 18-45 years by nonprobability purposive sampling technique. The design used was descriptive survey design with quantitative approach. The tools used were structured questionnaire for socio-demographic, knowledge, and attitude regarding female foeticide. The findings of the present study were that 4% women had good knowledge regarding female foeticide, majority of women had average knowledge regarding female foeticide and 0% had poor knowledge regarding female foeticide. Moreover 42% women had a positive attitude related to gender preference, 54% women had a neutral attitude and 4% women had negative attitude related to gender preference. There has been a significant association between knowledge and age with p value of 0.015 and there has been a significant association between knowledge and family income with p value of 0.000411 which is less than 0.05 level of significance.

KEYWORDS : Female foeticide Reproductive age, Community.

INTRODUCTION

Having a child in many societies is an exciting time, it is the birth of a new life with the capability to be anything he or she wants to be. When someone finds out that they are pregnant, everyone's first instinct is to ask: "Is it a boy or a girl?" and usually, whatever the answer is, it is met with exhilaration and joy. Nevertheless, in some cultures, the gender does matter, and a baby girl is considered more of a curse rather than a blessing.

In India, female foeticide is the earliest stage possible in which females are discriminated against men. It is a gender-selective abortion where a female foetus is illegally terminated solely because the foetus is a girl. Through various technology developments in the previous years, we are now able to detect the gender of the foetus much earlier in pregnancy. As a result of this, gender-selective abortions are rapidly increasing¹.

Female foeticide occurs all over India, from rural villages to urbanized cities. The government has made many attempts to lower the rate of female foeticide with acts such as the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostics Techniques Act (PCPNDT). The PCPNDT was validated in 1994 by the Indian parliament and prohibits prenatal sex determination due to the rapidly increasing female foeticide in India.

Since prenatal sex determination is against the law and can result in heavy fines, people find alternative methods to detect the gender and to also perform the abortions, sometimes in dangerous ways. After the establishment of the PCPNDT Act, there have been amendments made to strengthen and enforce this law, but female foeticide is still very common. The most effective way to end female foeticide is to understand the mindset and attitude of people and take measures to fix this problem².

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This descriptive survey design one group pre-test post-test research study was conducted in the month of April 2022 at Nawada, Fatepur.

Total 50 women were selected using Nonprobability purposive sampling technique. The tool used for the data collection consisted of 3 sections. Section 1- was subject data sheet containing four items like age, religion, educational status, total family income, any previous information regarding female foeticide. Section B included self-structured knowledge questionnaire related to female foeticide.

Section C included questions related to attitude regarding female foeticide. The content validity of the tool was established by 7 experts and reliability coefficient was calculated as 0.86. The researcher maintained the privacy & confidentiality and were asked to fill questionnaire. Informed consent was taken from the study participants Data was analysed with SPSS version 20 using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Need Of The Study

Owing to shortage of female sex, there will be sharp increase in the instances of rape, molestations and growth of homosexuality in the society. Saving the girl child hence becomes absolutely important as in the long run man cannot strive alone. As there were less studies done in Haryana area, so being a civilized citizen, it is our duty to raise voice against declining sex ratio.

It is our primary duty as well as concern to come forward to stop this menace. With extensive review literature and from community field experience the investigator was strongly motivated to identify attitudes towards gender preference and female foeticide³.

RESULT

Demographic characteristics of study participants shows that majority (36%) were in the age group of 18-25 years. 68% women lived in a joint family and out of 50 majority of women belonged to Hindu religion and most of the women 12(24%) had secondary education and graduates respectively.

Table 1: Frequency and percentage wise distribution of women according to their level of knowledge.

Level of knowledge	Knowledge score	Frequency	Percentage
Adequate knowledge	20-28	17	34%
Moderately adequate knowledge	10-19	33	66%
Inadequate knowledge	0-9	0	0%

This table depicts that **34%(17)** women had adequate knowledge regarding female foeticide, majority of women **66%(33)** had average knowledge regarding female foeticide and **0%(0)** had poor knowledge.

Table 2: Frequency/percentage distribution of women on attitude score related to gender preference

Attitude	Score	Frequency	Percentage
Unfavorable	18-41	2	4%
Moderately favorable	42-66	27	54%
Favorable	67-90	21	42%

Maximum score: 79

Minimum score: 38

This table depicts that 42% (21) women had a positive attitude related to gender preference, 54% (27) women had a neutral attitude and 4% (2) women had negative attitude related to gender preference.

Table:3 Findings Related to Association between Knowledge Score with Selected Demographic Variables.

Variables	Categories	Good	Average	Chi test	P value	df	Result
Age	18-25 years	10	8	5.823	0.015	1	Significant at 0.05 level of significance
	26-33 years	6	11				
	34-40 years	0	8				
	More than 40 years	1	6				
Total family income per month	Less than 10,000	11	9	15.595	0.000	1	Significant
	10,001 – 30,000	4	3				
	30,001 – 50,000	1	9				
	More than 50,000	0	13				
Education	No formal education	2	7	5.233	0.022	1	Significant
	Primary education	4	5				
	Secondary education	8	3				
	Graduation/diploma	9	2				
	Post graduation	5	3				

As depicted in the table above, there has been a significant association between knowledge and age with p value of 0.015813 and there has been a significant association between knowledge and family income with p value of 0.000411 which is less than 0.05 level of significance. There has also been a significant association between knowledge and education with P value of 0.022. This shows the knowledge was significantly associated with the age, family income and education.

CONCLUSION:

It is therefore concluded that 34% women had good knowledge regarding female foeticide, majority of women had average knowledge regarding female foeticide and 0% had poor knowledge regarding female foeticide. 42% women had a positive attitude related to gender preference, 54% women had a neutral attitude and 4% women had negative attitude related to gender preference. There has been a significant association between knowledge and age with p value of 0.015813 and there has been a significant association between knowledge and family income with p value of 0.000411 which is less than 0.05 level of significance.

Recommendation

In this study planned teaching programme can be implemented to increase the level of the knowledge regarding female foeticide or some intervention based study can be planned.

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