Research Paper Education

A STUDY ON DISCRIMINATION OF GIRL CHILD

D. Ramana | Academic Coordinator, Centre for Extension Studies & Centre for Women's Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati-517 502 Andhra Pradesh

Prof. D. Usha Rani | Principal, SVU College of Arts, & Director, Centre for Extension Studies & Centre for Women's Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati

ABSTRACT

Girl child life is a constant fight for survival, growth and development from the time she is conceived till she attains 18 years. In this context this study attempts to analyze the discrimination against girl child in Tirupati Rural Mandal in Chittoor district and analyze better interventions needed for holistic development of girl children.

The present study depicts the life chart of a girl child and the abnormal form of discrimination on Girl child and measures to be taken to abolish discrimination and create holistic development for girl children. Abolish disparities for girl child was more important, but also essential for better targeting in terms of improved and pragmatic programme focus.

KEYWORDS | life chart of a girl child, Discrimination on Girl, Tirupati

"The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.

India is home to the largest number of children in the world, significantly larger than the number in China (UNICEF, 2011). In our country the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy directs the State to ensure that all children are provided with services and opportunities to grow and develop in a safe and secure environment for all citizens, including children.

However, inadequate impact of programming investment and achievement in overall development of the child, and the adverse influence of negative social attitudes towards women and girls have left girl children in India disadvantaged.

Growing insecurity of girls and increasing violence against them, adolescent pregnancy resulting from sexual ignorance and neglect, increasing drop-outs from post-primary schooling due to various reasons, and deep neglect of the physical and cultural development of girls, with no provisions for games/ sports, healthy entertainment and reading facilities.

Girl child life is a constant fight for survival, growth and development from the time she is conceived till she attains 18 years. The table given below depicts the life chart of a girl child and highlights the many life threatening problems she faces.

Table -1 Depicts the life chart of a girl child

Years	Problems faced
Before Birth to 1 year	Foeticide and Infanticide Infant mortality Discrimination in breast feeding and infant food Neglect of health (immunization)
1 to 11 years (this includes specific problems faced by age groups 1-5 years and 6-11 years)	Discrimination in access to food and health care Malnutrition and anemia Health problems like Polio and diarrhea Iodine and Vitamin A and Micro nutrient deficiency Low school enrolment and School drop outs Vulnerable to trafficking, child labour, child marriage Abuse, exploitation and violence Domestic chores Looking after siblings Restriction on mobility and play Discrimination in overall treatment and parental care
11 to 18 years (Adolescents)	Poor health Low literacy level Restriction on mobility and play Frequent illness due to Malnutrition, Aneamia and micro-nutrient deficiency Child Marriage Early Child bearing morbidity and mortalit Poor access/ Denial to information and services Early and frequent pregnancy coupled with abortions Marital and domestic violence Dowry Harassment, desertion, polygamy, divorce Child labour, trafficking. STDs and HIV/AIDs Heavy domestic work including commuting long distances to collect fire wood/ drinking water Unpaid and unrecognized work, and drudgery No voice either in Home or society

Objectives of the study
The objectives of the present study are to analyze discrimination against girl child in Tirupati Rural Mandal in Chittoor district and analyze better interventions to holistic development of girl children.

Research methods
The study was conducted in 10 villages of Tirupati Rural Mandal in Chittoor district. The total sample size is 100 women selected from 10 different villages. Using simple random sampling technique at first stage and at the second stage stratified random sampling technique was adopted in selecting women from each village with proportional allocation.

In the present study, the researcher used interview schedule to seek information from the respondents as a primary data collection and secondary data was collected to seek information level on discrimination against girl child.

Result and Discussion
Reaction of the respondents on birth of girl child

Table – 2: Percentage distribution by respondent's reaction on birth of the girl child

Reaction	Percentage of the Respondents
Happy	28
Un happy	40
Indifferent	22
Not Known	10
Total	100

From the above data it is evident that more than one third (40 percent) of the respondents were unhappy on the birth of the girl child in the study area.

Table – 3: Percentage distribution by respondent's opinion on education level to be achieved by the girl child

Opinion	Percentage of the Respondents
Not Required	3
Up to X class	18
Intermediate	22
Graduate	55
Post Graduation	2
Total	100

From the above table it is clear that more than half (55 percent) of the respondents felt that girl child should study up to graduation, more than one fifth (22 percent) of the respondents felt that the girl child should study up to intermediate, less than one fifth (18 percent) of the respondents felt that the girl child should study up to X class, where as very few (3 percent)of the respondents felt that the girl child does not require any education and 2 percent of the respondents felt that the girl child should study up to post graduation.

Table – 4: Percentage distribution by respondent's opinion on profession of the girl

Opinion	Percentage of the Respondents
Doctor	2
Engineer	15
Teacher	10
House Wife	67
Desired job on their capacity and Ability	6
Total	100

From the above table it is clear that more than two thirds (67 percent) of the respondents felt that girl child should become a house wife, 15 percent of the respondents felt that girl child should become a engineer, 10 percent of the respondents felt that girl child should become a teacher, 6 percent felt that a girl child should do a job based on her capacity and ability, where as only 2 percent of the respondents felt that girl child should become a doctor.

Table – 5: Percentage distribution by respondent's opinion on marriage age of the girl

Opinion	Percentage of the Respondents
18y – 20y	58
21y – 22y	19
23y – 25y	15
25y above	8
Total	100

From the above table it is clear that more than half (58 percent) of the respondents felt that marriage age of the girl child is in between 18y – 20y, less than one fifth (9 percent) of the respondents felt that marriage age of the girl child is in between 21y – 22y, 15 percent of the respondents felt that marriage age of the girl child is in between 23y – 25y, where as 8 percent of the respondents felt that marriage age of the girl child is above 25y.

Table –6: Percentage distribution by respondent's opinion on involving daughter in socio-economic decision making

Opinion	Percentage of the Respondents
Mostly	5
Sometimes	25
Likely	15
Unlikely	55
Total	100

Above table show that more than half (55 percent) of the respondents said that they don't involve their daughter in socio-economic decision making, one fourth (25 percent) of the respondents said that they sometimes involve their daughter in socio-economic decision making, where as only 5 percent of the respondents said that they mostly involve their daughters in socio-economic decision making.

Table -7: Percentage distribution by respondent's opinion on activities of girl child

Opinion	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
Girls should be sent out of station for studies?	20	32	48
In case of any economic crisis or emergency girl should be withdrawn first from studies?	25	28	47
At the time of dinner boy should be served first?	8	82	10
Girl should contribute more to the household work?	42	23	35

If you are given an option to bear only one child, boy should be the preference?	50	27	23
A girl is the Pride / Respect of home	45	20	35
Girls are Cowards or they are not mentally strong	38	29	33
You and your family are going in a car and both your son as well as your daughter is equally good at driving, still boy should drive?	57	23	20
If Government Provides facilities like money and basic education, will you prefer to have only one girl child?	45	19	36
Should a girl be allowed equal right to her parent's property?	32	48	20

From the above table it is evident that one third of the respondents (32 percent) disagreed with the opinion that "Girls should be sent out of station for further studies", less than one third of the respondents (28 percent) disagreed with the opinion that "In case of any economic crisis or emergency girl should be withdrawn first from studies?", majority of the respondents (82 percent) disagreed with the opinion that "At the time of dinner boy should be served first?", less than half of the respondents (48 percent) disagreed with the opinion that "Should a girl be allowed equal right to her parent's property?", whereas less than half of the respondents (42 percent) agreed with the opinion that "Girl should contribute more to the household work?", half of the respondents (50 percent) agreed with the opinion that "If you are given an option to bear only one child, boy should be the preference?", less than half of the respondents (45 percent) agreed with the opinion that "A girl is the Pride / Respect of home", more than one third of the respondents (38 percent) agreed with the opinion that "Girls are cowards or they are not mentally strong", more than half of the respondents (57 percent) agreed with the opinion that "You and your family are going in a car and both your son as well as your daughter is equally good at driving, still boy should drive?", less than half of the respondents (45 percent) agreed with the opinion that "If Government Provides facilities like money and basic education, they will prefer to have only one girl child".

Conclusion:

The present study enlightened the life chart of a girl child and the abnormal form of discrimination on Girl child. The following measures should be undertaken to abolish discrimination against girl child and create holistic development for girl children.

Girl children are pushed into home based duties especially sibling care, the number of ICDS and AWCs in remote areas should be increased to relieve young girl children of their sibling care duties.

Engendering educational system involves not just establishing girl friendly schools but also creating gender awareness in the educational system so that the entire educational environment is sensitive to the special needs of girls.

Gender Sensitization and gender awareness programmes should be organized and conducted to Community Vigilance Groups along with Self-Help Groups and Youth Groups should ensure that girl children in their community especially in rural areas on the rights of the girl child, social problems faced by them and to provide counseling or help if required.

REFERENCES

• The Situation of Children in India-A Profile, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) May 2011. | • India Country programme document 2013-2017, UNICEF, 2012 | • Working Group on Development of Children for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012)- A Report | • SRS Bulletin, April 2006 | • SRS, RGI 1998 | • Website—Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. |