Knowledge on Female Foeticide among Undergraduate Students of Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

The female foeticide involves the detection of sex of the unborn child in the womb of the mother and the decision to abort it if the sex of child is detected as girl. So, here an attempt has been made to assess the knowledge regarding FF among UG students at selected college of Etawah district Utter Pradesh. In this paper we assess the knowledge regarding female foeticide among under graduate student of selected college of Etawah district. A Cross sectional study research design was utilizes in the present study. Non probability purposive sampling was used to select the sample. Study tool was classi ied in two parts (socio demographical variable and knowledge questionnaire). Result of the study shows that in study 50% students were belong in 17-19 year age group, 45% students had medical profession, 47.5% were male and 53.4 % female student. Study shows that more than 80% students have good knowledge. The mean score and SD were 22.375 and 5.826 respectively. Study concluded that students are having good knowledge regarding female foeticide.

Key Words: *FF – female foeticide, GP – groups, UG – Undergraduate, foeticide knowledge*

Introduction

The term "foeticide" is derived from the Latin term's foetus and caedo and refers to the act of murdering an unborn child. Female foeticide is a procedure that entails determining the sex of the unborn child in the mother's womb and then aborting it if the kid's sex is determined to be female.[1]

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness"- Quaker

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Women are murdered in a variety of ways across the world's cultures. However, Indian society exhibits certain especially heinous manifestations, such as dowry killings and sati. Female foeticide is a particularly heinous kind of violence against women. After prenatal sex determination, female foetuses are selectively terminated, preventing the birth of females. Between 35 and 40 million girls and women are missing from the Indian population as a consequence of selective abortion. In certain areas of the nation, the girl-to-boy ratio has fallen to less than 800:1,000. The United Nations has voiced grave alarm. [2,3]

India, as a historical example of a perfect civilization, sets a high bar for woman-gender as a whole, elevating her respect. We take pride in putting these words into speech but fall short of putting them into action. Our culture need a woman; a mother for

a son; a wife for a husband; and a girl to welcome a political leader with a garland. It is impolite and uncivilised to believe that a lady should be honoured while a girl should be condemned. If a guy need a woman in order to succeed in life, is this a case of female child failure? This is not a spiteful theory, but a demonic one! While the country honoured the spirit of women on International Women's Day, female foeticide remains the gravest of all women's problems, and girl child education also need immediate attention. Women are murdered in a variety of ways across the world's cultures. However, Indian society exhibits certain especially heinous manifestations, such as dowry killings and sati. Female foeticide is the most severe kind of violence directed against women. [3,4]

Female foeticide is the practise of aborting perfectly healthy female foetuses after about 12 weeks (or more) of gestation solely on the basis of their gender. If the foetuses had been males, they would have been permitted to survive. Female Foeticide has a number of consequences, including violence against women and a violation of their human rights. While the pregnant woman is often as eager to have a son as the father, she is frequently pressed to undertake such treatments. Numerous women experience psychological trauma as a consequence of being subjected to repeated abuse[4]. The cultural and economic considerations serve as disincentives for Indian families to allow for the birth of their female children.[4,5]

The Government of India passed the PNDT (Pre Natal-Diagnostic Techniques) Act in 1994, making it a crime to disclose the foetus's sexual orientation. The time has come to emphasise other routes or alternatives that may enhance the legislation and effect the necessary societal transformation. One such option is to raise community knowledge of female foeticide, allowing people to see it as a societal issue. [5,6]

Medical technology advancements have aided in the improvement of health care for millions of individuals. A simple and readily accessible test can establish the child's gender. In a culture where there is a significant prejudice against female children, there are egregious misuses of reproductive technology. The 2001 census data reveals a sobering truth, showing an imbalance in female and male birth rates. It is a well-known fact that India's sex ratio is lower than international standards, at 933 to the global average of 986. [6, 7]

Between 1901 and 1971, India had a steady decrease in the sex ratio, from 972 to 930 women per thousand males. The sex ratio was marginally higher in 1981, but reached its lowest point in history in 1991, at censes 927. Again, the sex ratio for the entire population was 933 in 2001. [6, 9]

Problem Statement

"A study to assess the Knowledge on female foeticide among undergraduate students of Selected Colleges in Etawah district, Uttar Pradesh"

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the knowledge regarding female foeticide among under graduate student of selected college of Etawah district.

2. To associate level of knowledge on female foeticide with selected demographic variable.

Hypothesis

H1: There will be significant difference between knowledge on female foeticide among rural and urban under graduate students.

H2: There will be significant difference between educated parents or uneducated parents of under graduate students.

H_3: There will be a significant association between

knowledge scores and selected demographic variables of under graduate students.

Research Methodology

Research methodology refers to controlled investigation related to the ways of obtaining, organizing and analyzing data.[10]

Research Design

"Research design is a plan how when at where data to be collected and analyzed". In this study cross sectional research design was used. [10]

Population

The target population define "population is defined as the entire aggregation of cases the meets designed set of criteria". The present study population is the under-graduate students studying in Etawah district. "Accessible population is the aggregate of cases that confirm to designated criteria also accessible as subject for a study" [10] Accessible population includes undergraduate students of different discipline that includes Nursing, paramedical and science student of selected college of Etawah district.

Sample and sample technique

Sample was selected of undergraduate students of Etawah district graduate college including inclusive and exclusive criteria. In this study, Non probability purposive sampling technique was used to select the samples.[10] The sample at the study consists of 120 under graduate students.

Research Variables

Knowledge on female feticides.

Data Collection Tool and Technique

Investigator has developed a questionnaire for the study. The questionnaire has included part I, socio demographical variable, part II knowledge on female feticide.

Part	TOOL	TECHNIQUE
A	Demographical questionnaires	Questionnaires
B	Assessment of knowledge regarding female feticide	Questionnaires
C	assessment regarding female feticide	Checklist

PART –A Demographic data

PART–B Questionnaire contain 26 objective type question related knowledge assessment

PART – C checklist contain 14, yes or No type question

Pilot Study

The pilot study was conducted in karmkshetra post graduate college, Etawah from with sample size of 12 students. Prior to study, the formal permission obtained by the principal of karmkshetra PG College Etawah. During the pilot study some of the student faced problem in understanding some question which was simplified after making necessary changes with the suggestion of the guide before starting the main study.

Result and Discussion

The data that has been collected will be analysed in this chapter. Data will be interoperated in the research finding once it has been analysed. The findings of the research will be presented in connection to the study's overall goal. The socio-demographic characteristics of the research participants are examined in the first portion of the paper. Participants' knowledge of female feticide will be assessed in the second phase of the data collection process. Students were studied in the first year, second year, third year, and fourth year of their bachelor's degree programme. Maximum 50 percent of UG students belonged to the 17–19-year age group, with a minimum 15.8 percent of students belonging to the 26–28-year age group. Students at the University of Ulster who learned about FF through the media made up 47.5 percent of the male students and 52.5 percent of the female students. The mean and standard deviation were 22.375 and 5.826 points, respectively. According to a survey performed on University of Guernsey students, 57 (47.5 percent) were male and 63 (52.5 percent) were between the ages of 17 and 28. The majority of them were Hindu, according to the report. University of Georgia students had between three and five family members in their family, with 59 (49%) students having between six and eight family members, and the remaining 11 (9.1%) students having more than eleven family members in their family. The majority of UG students were female, with 50 (41.1 percent) students having one or two females, 57 (percent) students having three or four females, 9 (7.5) students having five or six females, and 4 (3.3 percent) students having more than six females.[11, 12]

SECTION I: Socio-demographic Variable

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of the samples of characters of students (n=120)

Demographical variable	Frequency	Percentage
1. Age		
17 – 19 yr.	60	50
20 – 22 yr.	19	15.8
23 – 24 yr.	22	18.3
25 – 28 yr.	19	15.8
2. GENDER		
Male	57	47.5
Female	63	52.5
3. COURSE		
Medical	55	45.8
Non-medical	65	54.1

Cont... **Table 1: Frequency and percentage distribution of the samples of characters of students (n=120)**

4.	RESIDENCE	
Rural	69	57.5
Urban	51	42.5
5.	TYPE OF FAMILY	
Nuclear family	58	48.3
Joint family	62	51.6
6.	NO. OF FAMILY MEMBER	
3 – 5 member	59	49.1
6 – 8 member	43	35.8
9 – 11 member	7	5.8
More than 11	11	9.1
7.	NUMBER OF FEMALE MEBER IN THE FAMILY	
1 – 2 female	50	41.1
3 – 4 female	57	47.5
5 – 6 female	9	7.5
More than 6	4	3.3
8.	EDUCATION OF FATHER	
Illiterate	2	1.6
8th pass	13	10.8
10th pass	27	22.5
12th pass	28	23.3
Graduation	34	28.3
Post-graduation	16	13.3
9.	EDUCATION OF MOTHER	
Illiterate	28	23.3
8th pass	38	31.6
10th pass	22	18.3
12th pass	19	15.8
Graduation	14	11.6
Post-graduation	7	5.8
10.	SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE ON FEMALE FOETICIDE	
News paper	49	40.8
Television	40	33.3
Internet	16	13.3
Journals	8	6.6
Others	7	5.8

From Table 1 study demographic variables frequency and percentage distribution showing. Finding shows that:

Ø Table showing that 50% undergraduate students were belonging to

17 – 19 year, 15.8% undergraduate students were belonging to 20 –22 year, 18.3% undergraduate students were belonging to 23 – 25 year, 15.8% undergraduate students were belonging to 26 – 28 age group.

Ø There were 57(47.5%) male and 63(52.5%) female participated in this study.

Ø In this study, 55(45.8%),65(54.1%) was belonging to medical profession and non-medical respectively.

Ø In this study, 120(100%) students were participated.

Ø Most of the participant had residential area from rural 69(57.5%) and urban 51(42.5%).

Ø There are 58(48.3%) UG students had nuclear family and 62(51.6%) UG students had joint family.

Ø UG students had among family member in their family in which 59(49.1%) students had 3 – 5 family member, 43(35.8%) students: 6 – 8 family member, 7(5.8%) students: 9 – 11 family member and remaining 11(9.1%) students: more than 11 family members in their family.

Ø Most of the UG students had female member in which 50(41.1%) students had 1 – 2 females, 57(47.5%) students, 3 – 4 females, 9(7.5%) students' 5 – 6 females and 4(3.3%) students more than 6 females in their family.

Ø Regarding student's education of father had graduation level education status 34(28.3%), post-graduation level education level status 16(13.3%), 12^{th} education level status 28(23.3%), 10^{th} education level status 27(22.5%), 8^{th} education level status 13(10.8%), and illiterate remaining 2(1.6%).

Ø Regarding student's education of mother had graduation level education status 14(11.6%), post-graduation level education level status 7(5.8%), 12^{th} education level status 19(15.8%), 10^{th} education level status 22(18.3%), 8^{th} education level status 38(31.6%), and illiterate remaining 28(23.3%).

Ø The students had got knowledge about FF, 49(40.8%) students from newspaper, 40(33.3%) students from television, 16(13.3%) students from internet, 8(6.6%) students from journals, and 7 (5.8%) students from others.

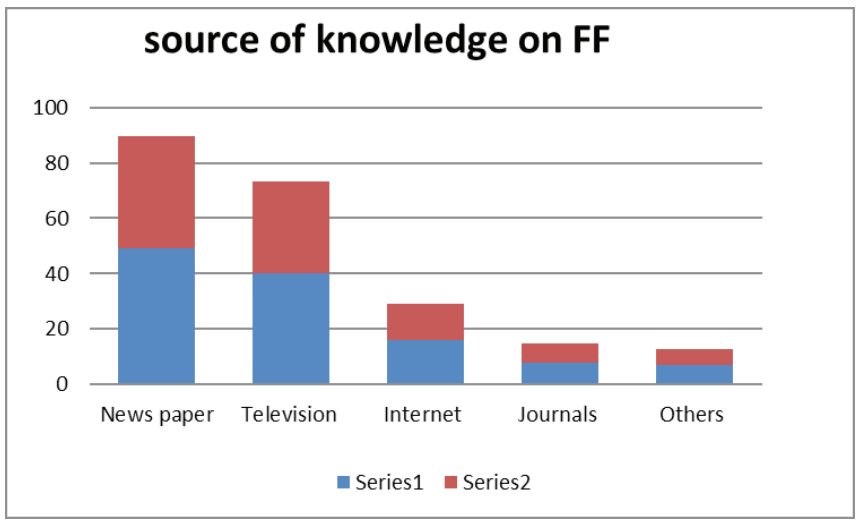

Figure 1: column diagram showing distribution percentage of source of knowledge on female foeticide

SECTION II

To assess the level of knowledge on female feticide among UG students

Table 2: Level of knowledge on female foeticide in percentage

Level	Very Poor	poor	Good	Excellent
Knowledge	3(2.5%)	33(27.5%)	77(64.16%)	7(5.83%)

Table no.2: show that 3(2.5%) UG students had poor knowledge, 33(27.5%) UG students were belonging to average knowledge, 77(64.16%) UG were belonging to good knowledge and 7(5.83%) UG students were belonging to excellent knowledge.

SECTION III

Table 3: Mean and SD of knowledge on female foeticide

Descriptive statistics					
	N	minimum	maximum	Mean	SD
Knowledge total	40	4	40	22.375	5.826

The table no.3: show the minimum knowledge score of UG student was 4 and maximum score of UG student was 40. The mean score and SD were 22.375 and 5.826 respectively.

Discussion

Study finds that 57(47.5%) were male and 63 (52.5%) who were aged 17-28 whereas a study conducted in most of them were Hindu. UG students had among family member in their family in which 59(49.1%) students had 3 – 5 family member, 43(35.8%) students: 6 – 8 family member, 7(5.8%) students: 9 – 11 family member and remaining 11(9.1%) student: more than 11 family member in their family. Most of the UG students had female member in which 50(41.1%) students had 1 – 2 females, 57(47.5%) students, 3 – 4 females, 9(7.5%) students, 5 – 6 females and 4(3.3%) students more than 6 females in their family. UG students had poor knowledge, 33(27.5%) UG students were belonging to average knowledge, 77(64.16%) UG were belonging to good knowledge and 7(5.83%) UG students were belonging to excellent knowledge.

A similar study descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge on female feticide among 100 medical undergraduates who were posted to the Department of Community Medicine of Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi. The finding showed that 57% were males and 43% were females, 64% students agreed that female feticide will lead to sexual & social crimes against women, 26% were in favour of stricter punishment for the doctors involved in this practice, 14 % suggested for stricter punishment for woman

seeking abortion. The findings in the study underscore the need to sensitize tomorrow's citizens about the ethics related to the inappropriate and indiscriminate use of technology.[11]

Conclusion

Most of the UG students were belonging to good knowledge. The finding of the study has implication related to nursing education regarding female foeticide.

A. Recommendation

On the basis of finding of the study it is recommended that:

· A similar study can be conducted in same setting that is colleges of Etawah district.

· On the basis finding of this study, conducted in colleges and evaluate the knowledge of UG students regarding female foeticide.

Conflicts of Interest Disclosure: None.

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