

Attitude of the Parents Towards Prenatal Sex Determination

Dr. Anjali P. Dudhmande

Asso. Prof. & Head

Dept. of Home Science

K. R. M. M. M.,

Nanded

The human society primarily comprises of two sexes male, and female. The sexes play distinct, though complementary roles in reproduction. It is obvious that Indian parents bring up their male and female children differently. There is difference in the upbringing of children between urban mothers and rural or tribal mothers.

Almost all Indian communities follow the patriarchal family system, where importance is attached to a son for maintaining continuity of the line, while a daughter is considered as somebody else's property. The differences amongst the sexes are observed since the birth of a child.

India is the only country in the world where the ratio of women to men has been declining over the years.

There is a rapid fall in the sex ratio of girls in the last decade. By way of amniocentesis earlier and now by way of sonography and sex determination of foetus is carried out. If the foetus is a female baby, it is aborted. This way the practice of female foeticide is gaining momentum in the society.

The central govt. brought a law in 1994 naming pre-birth sex technique of use and misuse prevention law and in 2003 this law was renamed as 'Prenatal Sex Determination Act' which is the only law for fighting against female foeticide.

The horrifying example of Parli's female foeticide issue of Dr. Sudam Munde, Beed's Dr. Lahane etc. are the examples of Doctors who are not life-savers, but are life-takers, or killers.

These days the administration is keeping a strict eye on gynaecologists and radiologists to stop female foeticide but still many doctors do it and heavily charge the parents who wish to do prenatal sex determination, and if the foetus is of a boy they say, "Jai Krishna" and if the foetus is of a girl they say, "Jai Devi".

In contrast to urban and rural people, the people belonging to tribal areas never go in for sex test of the foetus. So the sex ratio in the tribal area is very encouraging where the numbers of males and females are almost equal.

Aim:

A study is carried out to study why parents are going in for prenatal sex determination of the foetus.

Objectives:

1. To know the underlying reasons of prenatal sex determination of the foetus.
2. To find out the dormant factors behind Prenatal Sex Determination.

Sample:

By way of random sampling, 100 couples were selected who opted for Prenatal Sex Determination of the foetus. The sample was given attitude scale to find out their views regarding the topic. The investigator approached the respondents personally.

A survey of 8,000 women in Mumbai who underwent amniocentesis tests showed that 7,999 of them went in for abortions after the fetuses were found to be female.

A recent sample survey by the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) has come to the conclusion that the craving for a male child, religious considerations and illiteracy are the causative factors slowing down the process of family planning. An intense obsession for a male child has been mainly responsible for a couple with daughters going in for the next child over and over again till they get a son.

A random sampling consisting of 100 parents from Nagpur city were selected irrespective of social status, educational qualification, and number of children, age, and their years of married life. The respondents were one of the parents. The sample of 100 students was divided into two groups each consisting of 50 parents each. The groups were:

1. Those who have undergone Prenatal Sex Determination.
2. Those who are (female) pregnant but are not undergoing the Prenatal Sex Determination test.

The information required for this study was of two types. They are as follows:

1. General Background Information.
2. Questions on the attitude of parents towards Prenatal Sex Determination.

Conclusions:

The conclusions are as follows:

1. "The Prenatal Sex Determination is a must" say parents living in joint families. They want a son. The influencing factors are traditional and economic.
2. Highly educated group feels that Prenatal Sex Determination is a must because they want a family photo frame with one daughter and one son with them.
3. The parents from a rural background want a son to continue their name.
4. The parents from 'business class' are in strong favour of pre-selection of sex.

Recommendations:

1. Sensitization of the society regarding female foeticide be done.
2. Girls be given education.
3. Females should get jobs so that they become economically independent.
4. Education should not produce literates but it should develop sensitive educated population who will be sympathetic to social issues as well.