



ISSN (E): 2277-7695

ISSN (P): 2349-8242

NAAS Rating: 5.23

TPI 2023; SP-12(8): 11-16

© 2023 TPI

[www.thepharmajournal.com](http://www.thepharmajournal.com)

Received: 08-05-2023

Accepted: 16-06-2023

## Priyanka

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management, COHS, CCS HAU, Hisar, Haryana, India

## Prasanlata Arya

Assistant Professor, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management, CHSc, Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner, Rajasthan, India

## Perception of rural and urban youth towards female foeticide in Bikaner district of Rajasthan

Priyanka and Prasanlata Arya

### Abstract

The objective of the present study was to assess the perception of rural and urban youth towards female foeticide in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. The study was conducted in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. In rural areas, Sridungargarh and Kolayat were chosen as the two panchayat samiti with the highest and lowest sex ratios, respectively. East and West were the two zones that made up Bikaner's urban area. One ward was randomly chosen from each zone, i.e., ward number 60 was from the east zone and ward number 44 was from the west zone, out of them. For the purposes of the study, 200 respondents in total were chosen. The sample size constitutes 100 rural youth (50 girls + 50 boys) and 100 urban youth (50 girls + 50 boys). Questionnaire method was used for collecting data from the respondents. It was also apparent that 93.5 percent of respondents concurred that female foeticide is one of the causes of the decline in the number of females in our society. Most of the respondents (90.5%) had agreed with female foeticide will affect mother's psychological health. The majority of respondents (88.5%) believed that it is vital for parents to get their sex determined if their first kid is a boy in order for the subsequent child to be a girl. The result showed that the majority of the respondents (69.5%) had medium level perception towards female foeticide followed by low level (16%) and 14.5 percent of the respondents had high level perception towards female foeticide.

**Keywords:** Female foeticide, Sex determination, psychological health

### Introduction

According to anthropologist Barbara D. Miller, female foeticide is a practice that is mostly, but not entirely, prevalent in parts of Asia, especially in India, Pakistan, China, South Korea, and Taiwan. It is also prevalent among Asian diasporas that live outside of Asia, such as in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. Even though China and India are becoming into the two largest economies in the world, they continue to struggle or fail to preserve their unborn daughters. (Shah *et al.*, 2018) <sup>[1]</sup>. According to Census India 2001, about 10 million female foetuses have been aborted in India during the past 20 years. There are 933 females for every 1000 males, according to the 2001 Census. (Shyama Devi and colleagues, 2014) <sup>[5]</sup>. Child sex ratio is the sex ratio among children aged 0 to 6 years. Further, today's improvement in the population's overall sex ratio does not ensure that it will continue to move in the right direction in the future because the sex ratio for children will be a determining factor. (Singariya, 2013) <sup>[11]</sup>. One of the highest rates of female foeticide worldwide occurs in India. (Sowmya and Sreelatha, 2018) <sup>[3]</sup>. The sex ratio is a crucial sociological statistic for determining how much equality exists between men and women in a culture. The sex ratio at birth favours boys slightly, which is a natural occurrence. (Shewte and Andurkar, 2013) <sup>[6]</sup>. It is estimated that 50 million girls and women in India are not included in the statistics as expected as a result of pervasive gender discrimination. (Christian, 2014). Preference of son in India has been expressed in terms of female infanticide that has now being replaced by female foeticide or sex selective abortion with the availability of the newer technologies. (Kanyadi and Kulkarni, 2017) <sup>[4]</sup>. The girl child in India is treated right from her birth as an additional burden an extra mouth to feed, a liability and another man's property. Sex determination tests are widely resorted to even in the remotest rural areas. Since most deliveries in rural areas take place at home there is no record of the exact number of births/deaths that take place. (Zonunsiami *et al.*, 2017) <sup>[13]</sup>. The preference for son over a daughter is well known in a patriarchal society like India but killing of the female fetus in the womb is extremely horrible practice which is still prevalent in this era. (Mann, 2016). UNFPA states that every day 1600 girls are aborted in India. Government has enacted and brought the PCPNDT (Pre Conception & Pre Natal-Diagnostic Techniques) Act to prevent the sex determination of the fetes in 1994.

## Corresponding Author:

### Priyanka

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Extension Education and Communication Management, COHS, CCS HAU, Hisar, Haryana, India

(Ingavale, 2017) <sup>[10]</sup>. although lot of advertising is done by Government, but still the condition is same nothing helps and there are several reasons behind it. (Mehta *et al*, 2017) <sup>[12]</sup>.

### Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Bikaner district of Rajasthan during 2020. Rural and urban areas of the Bikaner district were chosen for the study based on its characteristics. The district of Bikaner had seven panchayat samities. Bikaner, Lunkaransar, Sridungarh, Khajuwala, Kolayat, Nokha, and Panchu were among them. Out of these, Sridungargarh and Kolayat were chosen as the panchayat samiti with the greatest and lowest sex ratios, respectively. With the aid of these lists, fifty respondents from each panchayat samiti were chosen at random. The city of Bikaner was divided into two zones, east and west. Out of them, one ward was chosen at random from each zone; ward numbers 60 and 44 were from the east and west, respectively. fifty respondents were chosen at random from each ward using the chit method. 200 respondents in all were thus chosen for the study's purposes. The respondents' necessary information was gathered via the questionnaire. For the analysis of the data, appropriate statistical tools were employed.

### Results and Discussion

#### Perception of respondents towards female foeticide

Table 1 revealed that the perception of respondents towards female foeticide thirty-two statements had recorded and analyzed accordingly.

#### Important for parents to know about sex of the foetus

The half of the respondents, 50.5 percent disagreed that it was crucial for parents to be aware of the foetus' gender. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area 64 percent and 48 percent of the boys had disagreed while 52 percent rural and 36 percent urban boys had agreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area 62 percent and 48 percent of the girls had agreed while 52 percent urban girls and 38 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### Necessity for sex determination before birth of second child

Majority of the respondents (57%) had agreed about the determining sex before the birth of a second kid necessary. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area 68 percent and 46 percent of the boys had disagreed while 54 percent rural and 32 percent urban boys had agreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (82%, 58%) of the girls had agreed while 42 percent urban girls and 16 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### The sole purpose of determining sex, parents with daughters must have freedom

Majority of the respondents (58.5%) had agreed about the sole purpose of determining sex, parents with daughters must have freedom. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area 58 percent and 46 percent of the boys had disagreed while 54 percent rural and 42 percent urban boys had agreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (82%, 54%) of the girls had agreed while 46 percent urban girls and 16 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### If the first child is a boy, the parents must undergo sex testing in order for the second child to be a girl

Majority of the respondents (88.5%) were agreed about If the first child is a boy, the parents must undergo sex testing in order for the second child to be a girl. Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (88%, 80%) of the boys had agreed while 20 percent urban and 12 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (98%, 88%) of the girls had agreed whereas 12 percent urban girls and 2 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### If given the chance, they will undergo sex testing

Majority of the respondents (61%) agreed about If given the chance, they will undergo sex testing. Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area 64 percent and 44 percent of the boys had agreed while 56 percent urban and 36 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (82%, 54%) of the girls had agreed while 46 percent urban girls and 18 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### There is no benefit to paying more for sex determination scans

Majority of the respondents (64%) were agreed There is no benefit to paying more for sex determination scans. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (80%, 60%) of the boys had agreed while 40 percent rural and 20 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (66%, 50%) of the girls had agreed while 50 percent rural girls and 34 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### There won't be more than one daughter in a family if the legislation allows for sex determination

It could be seen that 86.5 percent of the respondents had agreed about There won't be more than one daughter in a family if the legislation allows for sex determination. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (94%, 80%) of the boys had agreed while 20 percent rural and 6 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (88%, 84%) of the girls had agreed while 16 percent rural girls and 12 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### One of the reasons there are less girls in our society is female foeticide

It could be perceived that 93.5 percent of the respondents had agreed about One of the reasons there are less girls in our society is female foeticide. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area majority of the boys (100%, 96%) agreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area majority of the girls (90%, 88%) agreed while 12 percent rural girls and 10 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### Sex test results contribute to smaller families

Most of the respondents (51%) had agreed that Sex test results contribute to smaller families. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area 70 percent and 44 percent of the boys had disagreed while 56 percent rural and 30 percent urban boys had agreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area 70 percent and 48 percent of the girls had

agreed while 52 percent urban girls and 30 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### **The key factor driving the rise in the cruel practice of female foeticide is ultrasound.**

Majority of the respondents (84%) had agreed about The key factor driving the rise in the cruel practice of female foeticide is ultrasound. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (98%, 88%) of the boys had agreed whereas 12 percent rural and 2 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (80%, 70%) of the girls had agreed while 30 percent rural girls and 20 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### **Legal ownership of parents' property by women may contribute to female foeticide**

It can be stated that 51 percent of the respondents had agreed about Legal ownership of parents' property by women may contribute to female foeticide. In urban and rural area 68 percent and 46 percent of the boys had disagreed while 54 percent rural and 32 percent urban boys had agreed with the statement. Comparative data showed that in case of girls in rural and urban area (72%, 46%) of the girls had agreed whereas 54 percent urban girls and 28 percent rural girls had disagreed.

#### **After the birth of their first daughter, parents experience stress**

Majority of the respondents (77.5%) had agreed about after the birth of their first daughter, parents experience stress. Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (96%, 68%) of the boys had agreed while 32 percent urban and 4 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (78%, 68%) of the girls had agreed while 32 percent urban girls and 22 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### **Parents that only have daughters believe that their family is lacking without a man**

Majority of the respondents (79.5%) had agreed about Parents that only have daughters believe that their family is lacking without a man. Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (86%, 70%) of the boys had agreed while 30 percent urban and 14 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (88%, 74%) of the girls had agreed while 26 percent urban girls and 12 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### **When daughters are born, their in-laws frequently bug (harass) them**

Most of the respondents (61.5%) had disagreed about When daughters are born, their in-laws frequently bug (harass) them followed by agreed (38.5%). Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (68%, 64%) of the boys had disagreed while 36 percent rural and 32 percent urban boys had agreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (60%, 54%) of the girls had disagreed while 46 percent rural girls and 40 percent urban girls had agreed with the statement.

**After the birth of the first daughters, it is vital to have a son:** Majority of the respondents (69.5%) had agreed about after the birth of the first daughters, it is vital to have a son followed by disagreed (30.5%). Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (74%, 48%) of the boys had

agreed while 52 percent urban and 26 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (82%, 74%) of the girls had agreed while 26 percent urban girls and 18 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### **After the birth of the second daughter, having a son is more crucial**

Majority of the respondents (80%) had agreed about After the birth of the second daughter, having a son is more crucial followed by disagreed (20%). Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (80%, 72%) of the boys had agreed while 28 percent urban and 20 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (88%, 80%) of the girls had agreed while 20 percent urban girls and 12 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### **The birth of a son is assisted by consultations with saints and astrologers**

Majority of the respondents (69.5%) had disagreed about The birth of a son is assisted by consultations with saints and astrologers followed by agreed (30.5%). Comparative data showed in urban and rural area (80%, 76%) of the boys had disagreed while 24 percent rural and 20 percent urban boys had agreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (68%, 54%) of the girls had disagreed while 46 percent rural girls and 32 percent urban girls had agreed with the statement.

#### **Having girls causes some parents anxiety because they don't have any parental heritage (Family name)**

Majority of the respondents (80.5%) had agreed about Having girls causes some parents anxiety because they don't have any parental heritage (family name). Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (82%, 74%) of the boys had agreed while 26 percent urban and 18 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (90%, 76%) of the girls had agreed while 24 percent urban girls and 10 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### **Old age is a source of insecurity for parents of only daughters**

Majority of the respondents (89%) had agreed about Old age is a source of insecurity for parents of only daughters. Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area majority of the boys (96%, 86%) agreed while 14 percent urban and 4 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (90%, 84%) of the girls had agreed while 16 percent urban girls and 10 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

#### **There is no difference between boys and girls other than how they are developed physically and biologically**

Most of the respondents (89.5%) had agreed about There is no difference between boys and girls other than how they are developed physically and biologically. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area majority of the boys (98%, 92%) agreed while 8 percent rural and 2 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (90%, 78%) of the girls had agreed while 22 percent rural girls and 10 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **When there are only daughters in a household, parents are hesitant to marry their boys**

Most of the respondents (59.5%) had agreed about When there are only daughters in a household, parents are hesitant to marry their boys. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (60%, 58%) of the boys had disagreed while 42 percent rural and 40 percent urban boys had agreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (84%, 72%) of the girls had agreed while 28 percent urban girls and 16 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **Atrocities (violence) against girls will grow when there are fewer of them**

Most of the respondents (68%) were agreed with Atrocities (violence) against girls will grow when there are fewer of them. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (84%, 64%) of the boys had agreed while 36 percent rural and 16 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (68%, 56%) of the girls had agreed while 44 percent rural girls and 32 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **There is no harm in having a lot of daughters if you want a son**

Majority of the respondents (78.5%) had agreed about There is no harm in having a lot of daughters if you want a son. Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (88%, 84%) of the boys had agreed while 16 percent urban and 12 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (74%, 68%) of the girls had agreed while 32 percent rural girls and 26 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **Because there are fewer of them, crimes against women have soared**

Majority of the respondents (70.5%) had agreed about Because there are fewer of them, crimes against women have soared. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (86%, 68%) of the boys had agreed while 32 percent rural and 14 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (72%, 56%) of the girls had agreed while 44 percent rural girls and 28 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **Sweets to be distributed on the birth of first daughter**

Most of the respondents (59.5%) had agreed about sweets to be distributed on the birth of first daughter. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (78%, 52%) of the boys had agreed while 48 percent rural and 22 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (64%, 44%) of the girls had agreed while 56 percent rural girls and 36 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **Distribution of sweets to celebrate the birth of the first daughter**

Majority of the respondents (73%) had disagreed about Distribution of sweets to celebrate the birth of the first daughter. Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (82%, 52%) of the boys had disagreed while 48 percent urban and 18 percent rural boys had agreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (84%, 74%) of the girls had disagreed while 26 percent urban girls and 16 percent rural girls had agreed with the statement.

### **One girl and one son are the ideal number of children for a family**

Majority of the respondents (84.5%) had agreed about One girl and one son are the ideal number of children for a family. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area majority of the boys (96%, 82%) agreed while 19 percent rural and 4 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in urban and rural area (82%, 78%) of the girls had agreed while 22 percent rural girls and 18 percent urban girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **Financially supported programmes can contribute in reducing female foeticide**

Most of the respondents (85%) were agreed about financially supported programmes can contribute in reducing female foeticide. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (100%, 78%) of the boys had agreed while 22 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (84%, 78%) of the girls had agreed while 22 percent urban girls and 16 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **Parents feel that only boys can help in family business more effectively**

Most of the respondents (80.5%) had agreed parents feel that only boys can help in family business more effectively. Comparative data showed that in rural and urban area (82%, 74%) of the boys had agreed while 26 percent urban boys and 18 percent rural boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (90%, 76%) of the girls had agreed while 24 percent urban girls and 10 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **Due to female foeticide, marriage problem for males will be arise**

Majority of the respondents (87%) had agreed about due to female foeticide, marriage problem for males will be arise. In urban and rural area majority of the boys (98%, 90%) agreed while 10 percent rural and 2 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls equal number (80%) of rural and urban girls had agreed while 20 percent had disagreed with the statement.

### **Female foeticide will affect mother's psychological health**

Most of the respondents (90.5%) had agreed with female foeticide will affect mother's psychological health. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area majority of the boys (94%, 86%) agreed while 14 percent rural boys and 6 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (92%, 90%) of the girls had agreed while 10 percent urban girls and 8 percent rural girls had disagreed with the statement.

### **Female foeticide cases will increase the power status of male**

Most of the respondents (53.5%) had disagreed about female foeticide cases will increase the power status of male. Comparative data showed that in urban and rural area (68%, 66%) of the boys had agreed while 34 percent rural and 32 percent urban boys had disagreed with the statement. In case of girls in rural and urban area (82%, 66%) of the girls had disagreed while 34 percent urban girls and 18 percent rural girls had agreed with the statement.

**Table 1:** Distribution of the respondents according to perception towards female foeticide

| S. No. | Statements  | Rural        |          |    |    |               |          |    |    | Urban        |          |    |    |              |          |    |    | Total (n= 200) |      |          |      |
|--------|---|--------------|----------|----|----|---------------|----------|----|----|--------------|----------|----|----|--------------|----------|----|----|----------------|------|----------|------|
|        |   | Boys (n= 50) |          |    |    | Girls (n= 50) |          |    |    | Boys (n= 50) |          |    |    | Girls(n= 50) |          |    |    | Agree          |      | Disagree |      |
|        |   | Agree        | Disagree | F  | %  | Agree         | Disagree | F  | %  | Agree        | Disagree | F  | %  | Agree        | Disagree | F  | %  | F              | %    | F        | %    |
|        |   | F            | %        | F  | %  | F             | %        | F  | %  | F            | %        | F  | %  | F            | %        | F  | %  | F              | %    | F        | %    |
| 1.     | Important for parents to know about sex of the foetus   | 26           | 52       | 24 | 48 | 31            | 62       | 19 | 38 | 18           | 36       | 32 | 64 | 24           | 48       | 26 | 52 | 99             | 49.5 | 101      | 50.5 |
| 2.     | Necessity for sex determination before birth of second child  | 27           | 54       | 23 | 46 | 42            | 82       | 8  | 16 | 16           | 32       | 34 | 68 | 29           | 58       | 21 | 42 | 114            | 57   | 86       | 43   |
| 3.     | The sole purpose of determining sex, parents with daughters must have freedom                                 | 27           | 54       | 23 | 46 | 42            | 82       | 8  | 16 | 21           | 42       | 29 | 58 | 27           | 54       | 23 | 46 | 117            | 58.5 | 83       | 41.5 |
| 4.     | If the first child is a boy, the parents must undergo sex testing in order for the second child to be a girl. | 44           | 88       | 6  | 12 | 49            | 98       | 1  | 2  | 40           | 80       | 10 | 20 | 44           | 88       | 6  | 12 | 177            | 88.5 | 23       | 11.5 |
| 5.     | If given the chance, they will undergo sex testing.   | 32           | 64       | 18 | 36 | 41            | 82       | 9  | 18 | 22           | 44       | 28 | 56 | 27           | 54       | 23 | 46 | 122            | 61   | 78       | 39   |
| 6.     | There is no benefit to paying more for sex determination scans.   | 30           | 60       | 20 | 40 | 25            | 50       | 25 | 50 | 40           | 80       | 10 | 20 | 33           | 66       | 17 | 34 | 128            | 64   | 72       | 36   |
| 7.     | There won't be more than one daughter in a family if the legislation allows for sex determination.            | 40           | 80       | 10 | 20 | 42            | 84       | 8  | 16 | 47           | 94       | 3  | 6  | 44           | 88       | 6  | 12 | 173            | 86.5 | 27       | 13.5 |
| 8.     | One of the reasons there are less girls in our society is female foeticide.                                   | 48           | 96       | 2  | 4  | 44            | 88       | 6  | 12 | 50           | 100      | 0  | 0  | 45           | 90       | 5  | 10 | 187            | 93.5 | 13       | 6.5  |
| 9.     | Sex test results contribute to smaller families.  | 28           | 56       | 22 | 44 | 35            | 70       | 15 | 30 | 15           | 30       | 35 | 70 | 24           | 48       | 26 | 52 | 102            | 51   | 98       | 49   |
| 10.    | The key factor driving the rise in the cruel practice of female foeticide is ultrasound.                      | 44           | 88       | 6  | 12 | 35            | 70       | 15 | 30 | 49           | 98       | 1  | 2  | 40           | 80       | 10 | 20 | 168            | 84   | 32       | 16   |
| 11.    | Legal ownership of parents' property by women may contribute to female foeticide.                             | 27           | 54       | 23 | 46 | 36            | 72       | 14 | 28 | 16           | 32       | 34 | 68 | 23           | 46       | 27 | 54 | 102            | 51   | 98       | 49   |
| 12.    | After the birth of their first daughter, parents experience stress  | 48           | 96       | 2  | 4  | 39            | 78       | 11 | 22 | 34           | 68       | 16 | 32 | 34           | 68       | 16 | 32 | 155            | 77.5 | 45       | 22.5 |
| 13.    | Parents that only have daughters believe that their family is lacking without a man.                          | 43           | 86       | 7  | 14 | 44            | 88       | 6  | 12 | 35           | 70       | 15 | 30 | 37           | 74       | 13 | 26 | 159            | 79.5 | 41       | 20.5 |
| 14.    | When daughters are born, their in-laws frequently bug (harass) them.  | 18           | 36       | 32 | 64 | 23            | 46       | 27 | 54 | 16           | 32       | 34 | 68 | 20           | 40       | 30 | 60 | 77             | 38.5 | 123      | 61.5 |
| 15.    | After the birth of their first daughters, it is vital to have a son   | 37           | 74       | 13 | 26 | 41            | 82       | 9  | 18 | 24           | 48       | 26 | 52 | 37           | 74       | 13 | 26 | 139            | 69.5 | 61       | 30.5 |
| 16.    | After the birth of the second daughter, having a son is more crucial.   | 40           | 80       | 10 | 20 | 44            | 88       | 6  | 12 | 36           | 72       | 14 | 28 | 40           | 80       | 10 | 20 | 160            | 80   | 40       | 20   |
| 17.    | Consultations with astrologers and saints help in birth of son  | 12           | 24       | 38 | 76 | 23            | 46       | 27 | 54 | 10           | 20       | 40 | 80 | 16           | 32       | 34 | 68 | 61             | 30.5 | 139      | 69.5 |
| 18.    | Having girls causes some parents anxiety because they don't have any parental heritage (Family name)          | 41           | 82       | 9  | 18 | 45            | 90       | 5  | 10 | 37           | 74       | 13 | 26 | 38           | 76       | 12 | 24 | 161            | 80.5 | 39       | 19.5 |
| 19.    | Old age is a source of insecurity for parents of only daughters.  | 48           | 96       | 2  | 4  | 45            | 90       | 5  | 10 | 43           | 86       | 7  | 14 | 42           | 84       | 8  | 16 | 178            | 89   | 22       | 11   |
| 20.    | There is no difference between boys and girls other than how they are developed physically and biologically.  | 46           | 92       | 4  | 8  | 39            | 78       | 11 | 22 | 49           | 98       | 1  | 2  | 45           | 90       | 5  | 10 | 179            | 89.5 | 21       | 10.5 |
| 21.    | When there are only daughters in a household, parents are hesitant to marry their boys.                       | 21           | 42       | 29 | 58 | 42            | 84       | 8  | 16 | 20           | 40       | 30 | 60 | 36           | 72       | 14 | 28 | 119            | 59.5 | 81       | 40.5 |
| 22.    | Atrocities (violence) against girls will grow when there are fewer of them.                                   | 32           | 64       | 18 | 36 | 28            | 56       | 22 | 44 | 42           | 84       | 8  | 16 | 34           | 68       | 16 | 32 | 136            | 68   | 64       | 32   |
| 23.    | There is no harm in having a lot of daughters if you want a son.  | 44           | 88       | 6  | 12 | 34            | 68       | 16 | 32 | 42           | 84       | 8  | 16 | 37           | 74       | 13 | 26 | 157            | 78.5 | 43       | 21.5 |
| 24.    | Because there are fewer of them, crimes against women have soared.  | 34           | 68       | 16 | 32 | 28            | 56       | 22 | 44 | 43           | 86       | 7  | 14 | 36           | 72       | 14 | 28 | 141            | 70.5 | 59       | 29.5 |
| 25.    | Distribution of sweets to celebrate the birth of the first daughter.  | 26           | 52       | 24 | 48 | 22            | 44       | 28 | 56 | 39           | 78       | 11 | 22 | 32           | 64       | 18 | 36 | 119            | 59.5 | 81       | 40.5 |
| 26.    | Sweets to be distributed on the birth of second daughter  | 9            | 18       | 41 | 82 | 8             | 16       | 42 | 84 | 24           | 48       | 26 | 52 | 13           | 26       | 37 | 74 | 54             | 27   | 146      | 73   |
| 27.    | One girl and one son are the ideal number of children for a family.   | 41           | 82       | 9  | 19 | 39            | 78       | 11 | 22 | 48           | 96       | 2  | 4  | 41           | 82       | 9  | 18 | 169            | 84.5 | 31       | 15.5 |
| 28.    | Financially supported programmes can contribute in reducing female foeticide.                                 | 39           | 78       | 11 | 22 | 42            | 84       | 8  | 16 | 50           | 100      | 0  | 0  | 39           | 78       | 11 | 22 | 170            | 85   | 30       | 15   |
| 29.    | Parents feel that only boys can help in family business more effectively                                      | 41           | 82       | 9  | 18 | 45            | 90       | 5  | 10 | 37           | 74       | 13 | 26 | 38           | 76       | 12 | 24 | 161            | 80.5 | 39       | 19.5 |
| 30.    | Due to female foeticide, marriage problem for males will be arise   | 45           | 90       | 5  | 10 | 40            | 80       | 10 | 20 | 49           | 98       | 1  | 2  | 40           | 80       | 10 | 20 | 174            | 87   | 26       | 13   |
| 31.    | Female foeticide will affect mother's psychological health  | 43           | 86       | 7  | 14 | 46            | 92       | 4  | 8  | 47           | 94       | 3  | 6  | 45           | 90       | 5  | 10 | 181            | 90.5 | 19       | 9.5  |
| 32.    | Female foeticide cases will increase the power status of male   | 33           | 66       | 17 | 34 | 9             | 18       | 41 | 82 | 34           | 68       | 16 | 32 | 17           | 34       | 33 | 66 | 93             | 46.5 | 107      | 53.5 |

**Overall perception of respondents regarding female foeticide**

**Table 2:** Distribution of the respondents according to their overall perception towards female foeticide

| S. No. | Category              | F   | %    |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|------|
| 1.     | Low level (Below 10)  | 32  | 16   |
| 2.     | Medium level (10- 24) | 139 | 69.5 |
| 3.     | High level (above 24) | 29  | 14.5 |

(Mean score= 16.90, S.D.= 6.96)

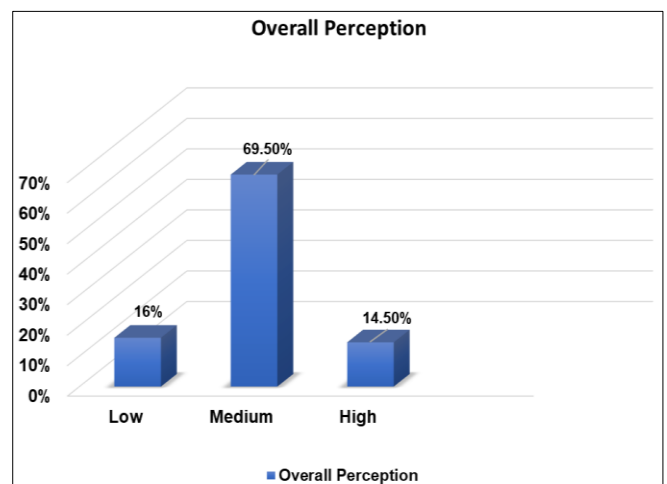
The perception of the respondents about female foeticide had collected and grouped into three categories on the basis of mean and standard deviation.

The data of the Table 2 revealed that, the majority of the respondents (69.5%) had medium level perception towards female foeticide followed by low level (16%) and 14.5 percent of the respondents had high level perception towards female foeticide.

It is evident from above data that the majority of the respondents (69.5%) had medium perception towards female foeticide. This might be due to the reason that female foeticide can be seen through history and background that's

why the perception for the girl baby has not completely changed.

These results are supported by the results of Kaushal, A., *et al* (2020) [2].



**Fig 1:** Distribution of respondents according to their overall perception

## Conclusion

The majority of respondents agreed that female foeticide was one of the reasons there were fewer girls in our society, according to the study's findings, but they disagreed about giving out sweets to celebrate the birth of a second daughter.

According to comparative data, the majority of urban boys agreed that female foeticide was one of the reasons there are fewer girls in our society, that parents experience stress after the birth of their first daughter, and that parents of only daughters' experience insecurity as they age, whereas the majority of rural boys agreed that female foeticide is one of the reasons there are fewer girls in our society and that financial assistance programmes could help stop it.

While the majority of urban girls agreed that female foeticide was one of the reasons there were fewer girls in our society, the majority of rural girls agreed that if the first child is a boy, it is necessary for the parents to undergo sex determination in order for the second child to be a girl and that female foeticide would have an adverse effect on the mother's mental health. The majority of respondents in the overall perception category reported a moderate level of perception of female foeticide.

## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## References

1. Shah JK, Gyawali B, Aro RA. Ending discrimination at the womb: Ethical perspectives on tackling female foeticide in Asian countries. *Ethics, Medicine and Public Health*; c2018. p. 52-58.
2. Kaushal A, Rana N, Sharma P, Minhas A, Singh M. Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Declining Sex Ratio and Female Feticide among Married Females (15–49 years) Residing in a Village in Shahpur, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. *Indian Journal of Social Psychiatry*. 2020;35(3):183-187.
3. Sowmya U, Sreelatha A. A Study the Legislation Enacted to Curb Female Foeticide in India. *International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics*. 2018;120(5):1251-1260.
4. Kanyadi S, Kulkarni R. Determinants of gender preference among women of Belagavi: a cross sectional study. *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health*. 2017;4(12):4733-4737.
5. Devi S, Sarin J, Nair R. Effectiveness of Public Awareness Programme on Prevention of Female Foeticide and Female Infanticide in Terms of knowledge and Attitude of Adults. *International Journal of Nursing Education and Research*. 2014;2(2):126-130.
6. Shewte KM, Andurkar S. Child Sex Ratio and It's Socio-Demographic Correlates: A Cross Sectional Study in an Urban Area of Eastern Maharashtra. *National Journal of Community Medicine*. 2013;4(4):618-620.
7. Christian D, Sonaliya KN, Garsondiya J. Female Feticide in the View of Fertile Females – A Study among Suburban Pregnant Women of Gujarat, India. *Int. J of Med Sci. and Public Health*. 2014;3(3):300-304.
8. Mann A. Female Foeticide in Delhi. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanities Research*. 2016;4(2):578-582.
9. Arora M. A Cry Still Unheard: A Menace of Female Foeticide Societal Attitude towards Female Foeticide. *Journal of Social Sciences*. 2013;2(1):1-4.
10. Ingavale D. A Study of Social Marketing with Reference to Save Girl Child Campaign. *An International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*. 2017;3(3):103-106, 12(2):45-49.
11. Singariya MR. Socio-Demographic Determinants of Child Sex Ratio and Its Regional Variation in India. *Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. 2013;12(2):45-49.
12. Mehta S, Acharya A, Meena D, Acharya R. A Study of Attitude, Awareness and Practice on Female Feticide of Pregnant Women in Bikaner of Rajasthan. *Journal of Medical Science and Clinical Research*. 2017;5(1):17185-17187.
13. Zonunsiami M, Aranha S, Rashmi. A Study on the Attitude of Gender Preference and Female Feticide among Women in Selected Settings at Mangalore. *International Journal of Health Sciences and Research*. 2017;7(12):104-113.
14. Patel A. Crises in Female Existence: female Foeticide and Infanticide in India. *International Journal of Criminology and Sociological Theory*. 2013;6(4):235-241.