

# A Study to Assess Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Female Feticide among Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Clinic in Selected Hospital at Karad

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**Abstract:** *Objective: 1) To assess the knowledge regarding female feticide among pregnant women, 2) Assess attitude regarding female feticide among pregnant women, 3) To find an association between knowledge and selected demographic variables. Methodology: The present Descriptive research approach was conducted among 100 pregnant women at Krishna hospital, karad, the purposive sample technique was used. Results: Total sample 100 pregnant women from that, Good knowledge was 15%, 46% knowledge was average and 39% was having poor knowledge regarding female feticide. And 15% women were having strong positive attitude, 59% of pregnant women were having positive attitude and 26% women were negative attitude towards female feticide. Conclusion: - studies conclude that most of the female were having average knowledge and attitude regarding female feticide.*

**Keywords:** Female feticide, pregnant women

## 1. Introduction

Save a girl child 'As a girl is Gold ornament of family 'As we keep gold in safe condition it shines more, if we save girls they shines but we have to save them to shine (1).

Sex selective abortions and increase in the number of female infanticide cases have become a significant social phenomenon in several parts of India. It transcends all castes, class and even the North South dichotomy. The girl children become target of attack even before they are born. Numerous scholars have observed that the latest advances in modern medical sciences. The taste like amniocentesis and ultrasonography which were originally designed for detection of congenital abnormality of the fetus, are being misused for the knowledge sex of fetus with the intention of aborting it if it happens to be that of a female. The worst situation is when these abortions are carried out well beyond the safe period of 12 weeks endangering the women life (2).

Killing girl child in the womb of mother is known as female feticide and is very common in Asian countries like India. Everyday there is news in the newspaper or on the TV that a new born girl is found in dustbin or garbage. The ratio of women is increasing for 1000 men there are only 940 women in India. Although lot of advertising is done by Government, but still the condition is same nothing helps and there are several reasons behind it (3).

The male child was important and enhances the status of the family; they preferred the first offspring as male. Also the girl child was seen as a liability and was not desired as

the first child. The value of male child in a patriarchal society ensures differential treatment of the girl child in comparison with the male child. Practices reflective of the high worth of the male child have existed traditionally from birth itself where a girl child may be decisively denied the right to life or her life chances may be reduced through cultural neglect where basic maternal care, nutrition or medical care may not be denied to her.(4)

In rural areas, poverty, lack of education, economic resources and inadequate health care facilities lead to the killing of infant girls whereas in urban areas selective abortion is commonly employed by individual with access to modern technology that allow for early sex detection.

## 2. Literature Survey

The study of Tamil Nadu by the community service Guild of Madras similarly found that female feticide is rampant in the state, through only among Hindu rather than Muslim and Christian families. Of the 1250 families covered by the study, 740 had only one girl child and 249 agreed directly that they had done more than one male child whereas half the respondents had only one daughter (9).

The Indian association reported that Maharashtra's sex ratio, which was 913 girls per 1000 boys in 2001, went down to 855 girls per 1000 boys in 2009. There exists no reliable statistics on sex selective abortions at the state and national levels in India. An indirect estimate using the data from two rounds of National Family Health Survey indicates that more than 100000 sex selective abortions are done in India every year (10).

There has been an alarming rise in the number of female fetuses aborted over the past several years. While it is impossible to know exactly how many female fetuses have been aborted, there are myriad estimates available in the literature. For example, according to recent medical research, over 10 million female fetuses may have been destroyed due to abortion and sex selection in the past 20 years in India. "Researchers in India and Canada for the Lancet journal said prenatal selective abortion was causing the loss of 500,000 girls a year." (11)

### 3. Materials and Methods

The present Descriptive research approach was conducted among 100 pregnant women of Krishna hospital, Karad, the purposive sample technique was used.

### 4. Major Findings

**Table 1:** Distribution of patient according to frequency and percentage of demographic variable, n= 100

Sr. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b>	<b>Age</b>		
	18-21	40	40
	22-25	46	46
	26-29	14	14
	30 &above	0	0
<b>2</b>	<b>Religion</b>		
	Hindu	94	94
	Muslim	4	4
	Christian	0	0
	Others	2	2
<b>3</b>	<b>Education</b>		
	Uneducated	5	5
	Primary	31	31
	secondary	55	55
	Graduate	9	9
<b>4</b>	<b>Occupation</b>		
	Housewife	97	97
	Service	2	2
	Business	1	1
<b>5</b>	<b>Income</b>		
	1000	39	39
	1000-5000	43	43
	5000-10000	18	18
	10000 &Above	0	0
<b>6</b>	<b>Type of family</b>		
	Nuclear	17	17
	Joint	82	82
	Extended	1	1
<b>7</b>	<b>Mass media</b>		
	TV/Radio	69	69
	News paper	9	9
	Magazines	6	6
	Health workers	8	8
	Friend circle	8	8
<b>8</b>	<b>Gravid</b>		
	First	54	54
	second	38	38
	Third	7	7
	More than 3	1	1

The data presented in table no 1 shows that 46% women were in the age group of 22-25 yrs, 94% women belongs

to Hindu religion. Majority 55% women were educated up to secondary, 97% housewife, maximum 54% women were primigravida and 69% received information regarding female feticide from TV/Radio.

**Table 2:** Knowledge level of pregnant women regarding female feticide

Knowledge Level	Frequency	Percentage %
Good	15	15
Average	46	46
Poor	39	39

The data shows that Good knowledge was 15%, 46% knowledge was average and 39% was having poor knowledge regarding female feticide.

**Table 3:** Attitude of pregnant women regarding female feticide

Attitude	Frequency	Percentage %
Strongly agree	15	15
Agree	59	59
Disagree	26	26

The data shows that 15% women were having strong positive attitude, 59% of pregnant women were having positive attitude and 26% women were negative attitude towards female feticide.

**Table 4:** Association between knowledge of pregnant women regarding female feticide and selected demographic variables

Sr. No	Demographic Variable	Median Below 3	Above 3	Chi X2 Value	Degree Of Freedom
<b>1</b>	<b>Age</b>				
	18-21	16	24		
	22-25	14	32	6.876**	6
	26-29	9	5		
	30 &above	0	0		
<b>2</b>	<b>Religion</b>				
	Hindu	39	55		
	Muslim	0	4	5.485**	6
	Christian	0	0		
	Others	1	1		
<b>3</b>	<b>Education</b>				
	Uneducated	4	1		
	Primary	12	19		
	secondary	22	33	11.415**	6
	Graduate	1	8		
<b>4</b>	<b>Occupation</b>				
	Housewife	38	55		
	Service	1	4		
	Business	-	-		
	Daily wages	-	2	3.865**	6
<b>5</b>	<b>Income</b>				
	1000	18	21		
	1000-5000	14	29		
	5000-10000	8	10	8.601**	6
	10000 &Above	0	0		
<b>6</b>	<b>Gravida</b>				
	Primi	21	34		
	Second	15	25		
	Third	2	2	2.537**	6
	Above third	1	-		

Table shows there was no association with knowledge and demographic variable.

## 5. Conclusion

In present study Good knowledge was 15%, 46% knowledge was average and 39% was having poor knowledge regarding female feticide. And 15% women were having strong positive attitude, 59% of pregnant women were having positive attitude and 26% women were negative attitude towards female feticide.

## 6. Discussion

In present study investigator assessed knowledge of pregnant women regarding female feticide. Finding reveled that pregnant women 15%, were having good knowledge, 46% knowledge was average and 39% was having poor knowledge. No similar study found but a study conducted by Giriraj in Kadaympatti panchat of salem district on 42 families he studied that girl child was considered the girl was unnecessary in spite of the fact that their own educational background was very dismal, 83.335 were illiterate.

## 7. Future Scope

### Nursing Implication

The findings of this study have implications for nursing practice, nursing education, nursing administration and nursing research.

### Nursing Practice

There is several implication of the present study in the nursing practice. Teaching on prevention of feticide

### Nursing Administration

The counseling and structured knowledge questionnaire prepared by the investigator may be utilized by community health nurses. To assess the knowledge of ANC mother regarding female feticide

### Nursing Research

Research suggests conduct studies on female feticide and its prevention which will go a long way to increase the female sex ratio.

### Nursing Education

The institutes of nursing education should play an active role in conducting in-service education programme, workshops and continuing education programmes to educate mother female feticide.

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