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A CRITICAL STUDY ON CAUSES AND IMPACTS OF FEMALE FOETICIDE IN INDIA

AUTHORED BY - S.ISAIYAZHINI¹

ABSTRACT:

The deliberate killing of female fetuses is known as female foeticide. It is a serious problem in India, where the sex ratio at birth is skewed in favour of males. There are a number of causes of female foeticide, including son preference, the dowry system, and patriarchal attitudes. There are some limitations to our understanding of female foeticide in India. Only by working together can we hope to eliminate this harmful practice and create a more just and equitable society for all. Female foeticide is a serious problem in India. There are a number of causes of female foeticide, including son preference, the dowry system, and patriarchal attitudes. Female foeticide is a pressing issue in India with far-reaching consequences. This study aims to understand the causes and impacts of female foeticide in the Indian context. It explores the resulting impacts such as gender imbalance, violence against women, hindered social and economic development, psychological consequences, and the perpetuation of discrimination. The impacts of female foeticide are far-reaching, and include a gender imbalance, a loss of human potential, and damage to the social fabric. There are some limitations to our understanding of female foeticide in India, but it is important to continue to research and raise awareness about this issue. The researcher used a descriptive research approach and a convenient sampling method to conduct the study. The study's sample size is (220) answers. The statistical package of social science is used. The factors that contribute to this harmful practice and to recognize its far-reaching consequences. The aim is to raise awareness, drive policy changes, and foster social transformation to eliminate female foeticide in India.

KEYWORDS: Female foeticide, gender preference, patriarchal norms, economic factors, weak law enforcement,

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INTRODUCTION:

The deliberate killing of female fetuses is known as female foeticide. It is a serious problem in India, where the sexratio at birth has been declining for decades. In some parts of the country, the sex ratio is as low as 800 girls per 1000 boys. The dowry system is a social custom in India in which the bride's family gives gifts to the groom's family at the time of marriage. This can be a significant financial burden, and some families believe that they will be able to avoid this burden by having a son. There is a strong preference for sons in many parts of India. This is due to a number of factors, including the belief that sons will carry on the family name, inherit property, and provide financial support to their parents in old age. In some cases, female foeticide is seen as a way to reduce the financial burden of raising a daughter. This is especially true in families that are already struggling to make ends meet. In many parts of India, there is a lack of education about the harmful effects of female foeticide. This can lead to families believing that it is a safe and acceptable practice. The declining sex ratio at birth is a major concern for India's future. A skewed gender ratio can lead to social and economic problems, such as an increase in violence against women and a decrease in the number of women in the workforce. Female foeticide is the loss of potential for millions of girls. These girls could have made significant contributions to society, but they were never given the chance to be born. Female foeticide is a violation of the human rights of women and girls. It is a form of gender discrimination and violence against women. The Pre-conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act: This act makes it illegal to use sex-selective abortion. The National Policy for the Empowerment of Women: This policy aims to promote gender equality and empower women. Public awareness campaigns: The government has launched public awareness campaigns to educate people about the harmful effects of female foeticide. The caste system is a social hierarchy that divides Indian society into different groups. Women from lower castes are more likely to be victims of female foeticide than women from higher castes. In some parts of India, women do not have access to quality healthcare. This can make it difficult for them to get prenatal care and to be informed about the risks of female foeticide. The lack of enforcement of the law: The PCPNDT Act is often not enforced effectively. This means that there is little punishment for those who engage in female foeticide. The problem of female foeticide is a serious one that needs to be addressed. It is important to continue to raise awareness about the issue and to work to find ways to prevent it. By working together, we can create a more just and equitable society for all women and girls. Female foeticide is a serious problem in India. It has a number of negative consequences, and it violates the human rights of women and girls. There are a number of factors that contribute to the practice of female

foeticide, and it is a complex issue to address. However, it is important to raise awareness of the issue and to take steps to prevent. Many people in India are not educated about the harmful effects of female foeticide. They may not be aware that it is a crime, or they may not understand the negative consequences of the practice. Raising awareness of the issue of female foeticide and its harmful effects is essential. People need to be educated about the crime of female foeticide, and they need to understand the negative consequences of the practice. Empowering women is another important way to prevent female foeticide. When women have more control over their lives, they are less likely to be subjected to gender discrimination. Changing social attitudes is also essential. People need to be taught that girls are just as valuable as boys, and that they deserve the same opportunities. The law against female foeticide needs to be enforced more effectively. Those who are found guilty of the crime should be punished severely. Female foeticide is a serious problem, but it is not insurmountable. By raising awareness of the issue, empowering women, and changing social attitudes, we can make a difference and help to prevent this harmful practice. The aim of the study is a strong preference for male children including the belief that boys will carry on the family name and inherit the family property. the bride's family is expected to give a large sum of money or property to the groom's family. This can be a financial burden for many families, and some families choose to abort female fetuses in order to avoid having to pay dowry.

OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the complex causes of female foeticide in India.
- To develop effective interventions to prevent female foeticide
- To promote gender equality and respect for women.
- To make society more fair and just for everyone.
- To raise awareness of the harmful effects of female foeticide

LITERATURE REVIEW:

(Jain 2006)The author finds female foeticide is caused by a variety of interconnected webs. Female foeticide is a widespread practise in several regions of India due to the underlying causes that are described in this article. Every act of violence against women has some long-standing justification, which is vehemently defended by those who defend acts like infanticide and foeticide.**(Singh 2007)** The author describes a numerous Asian nations, the sex ratios at birth have been skewed over the past 15 years by female foeticide. Over the past 20 years,

clinics for foetal sex determination have been established in northern and western cities of India. The findings of a thorough investigation into the misuse of prenatal diagnostic methods for sex selection in a rural community of 13,000 people in Rohtak district are presented here. **(Bose 2003)** The author discusses in India the 'female child' has drawn a lot of attention as a target of legislation addressing gender inequality. In this article, the topic of campaigns to stop female foeticide is examined, and the public discourse in India on the "girl child" and sex discrimination in abortion is set against a broad cultural backdrop of son preference. **(Dagar 2015)** The authors find basic reasons why people opt to commit female foeticide in India are attempted to be discussed in this essay. Although not the sole factors, son preference and dowry costs are highly significant in this case. Sons are important to the parents' economic, social, and religious well-being, but they also serve a crucial defense role for the family against aggression. **(Muthulakshmi 1997)** The author describes age of ultrasound technology and capitalist modernity, female foeticide has developed into a social hazard of significant international importance. This essay attempts to concentrate on the justification for foeticide and the effects of this occurrence on Indian society. In order to achieve a balanced society, this study will evaluate the steps done to counteract this horrible occurrence. **(Das 2020)** The author focuses on the Female foeticide is the killing of a female fetus without using authorized means of abortion. It happens in India for unknown cultural causes that date back many years. Because of India's large birth sex ratio—the proportion of boys to girls at birth—the prevalence of female foeticide is thought to be estimated. **(Bhatnagar 2012)** The author identifies Male births outnumber female births, as measured by the ratio M/T (male/total births), which is roughly 0.515. Racial M/T inequalities have long been recognised. This study was conducted to find such discrepancies across various American racial groups. **(Aravamudan 2007)** The author found women face a variety of difficulties. One of the harshest types of violence against women may be female foeticide, in which a woman's most fundamental and basic right—"the right to life"—is violated. A foetus is killed by an act known as fetal or foeticide. **(Guptā and Rājapūta 2011)** The author describes one of the most delicate and urgent challenges, not just for India but for the entire world, is womanish foeticide. It is a common belief that developed nations with higher knowledge rates may also have higher rates of coitus, but when one examines the evidence, this belief is called into doubt. Early in the 1990s, when ultrasound techniques became widely used in India, this process got under way. Families had a propensity to keep having children until a manly child was born. **(Gurusamy 2007)** The author analysis the knowledge and attitudes of adults in a chosen community in Ambala, Haryana, was done to determine the effectiveness of the Public Awareness Programme (PAP) on preventing

female infanticide and female foeticide. Prior to and following the implementation of the Public Awareness Programme (PAP), the study's objectives were to examine and evaluate adults' attitudes and knowledge regarding prevention of female infanticide and female foeticide. **(Agarwal 2003)** The author finds about the Intense public debate has surrounded India's dramatic rise in the proportion of men to women, while female foeticide persists unabatedly. Concerns range from consequences for demographic inequality to increased victimisation of women, the maintenance of gender hierarchies, and the threat to the prevalent development narrative, which has been widely used to justify female genital mutilation despite the availability of expanding infrastructure. **(Kabra 2002)** The author discuss most depressing information from the 2001 Indian Census relates to the low child sex ratio (girls per 1,000 boys in the age period 0–6 years) in nearly all of India's states. Without the widespread use of pre-birth sex determination testing and the subsequent sex-selective abortion of female fetuses, this would not have been possible. **(Swain 2013)** The author describes Numerous cultures and societies use a range of folk practices to ensure that a kid is conceived and born with the chosen sex because the desire to exert control over the sex of offspring is commonly held. Couples in developed nations may use a number of in vivo peri-conceptual strategies, whereas traditional civilizations in India, for instance, have elaborate folk techniques for conceiving sons. **(Sonawane 2010)** The author finds data from the Indian census, there is a link between having an anomalous sex ratio and having greater socioeconomic position and literacy. This could be related to the Indian dowry system, where girls who are viewed as a financial burden often die in dowries. According to 1991, 2001, and 2011 Census data, urban India has a higher child sex ratio than rural India, which suggests that female foeticide is more common in urban India. **(Sarna 2005)** The author is shown near the water in the opening scene of Female Foeticide contemplating life in India. This establishes a sombre tone for what comes next. Khan then introduces two mothers, Amisha and Parveen, on a talk show stage in front of a live audience. These women's stories collectively show what we could assume is widespread in India: pressure and coercion from spouses and in-laws for female fetal identification and abortion, repeated abortions, and abuse when the ladies don't cooperate. **(Kaur 1996)** The author found one of the cruelest of them all is female foeticide, in which the fetus is slain in the mother's womb before it has the chance to be born simply because it is a girl. Female foeticide, as a generic term, refers to the selective abortion of female fetuses in a patriarchal form of society. Women are no longer only subject to discrimination in all societies where men predominate; they are now also denied the right to give birth. **(Choudhary and Chauhan 2017)** the author discuss one of the most delicate and urgent challenges, not just for India but for the

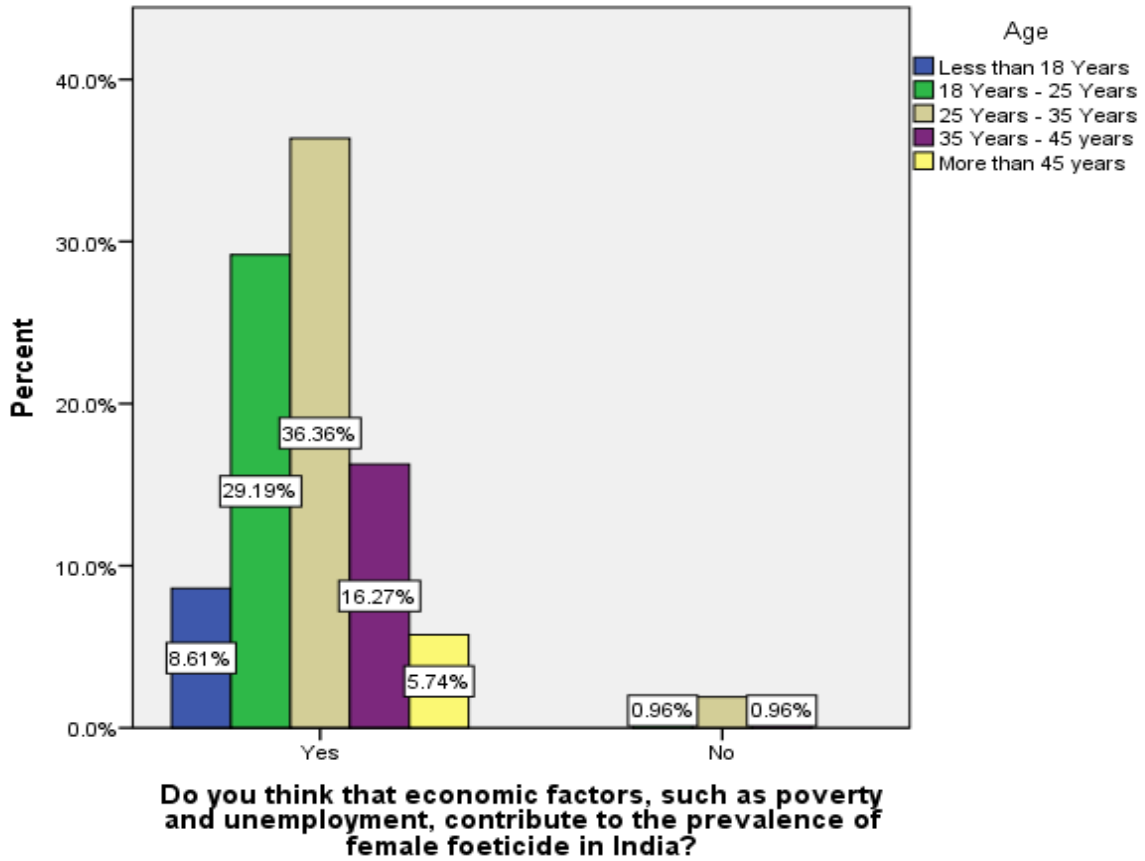
entire world, is female foeticide. Through this insensitive act, the female fetus is moved from the womb to the tomb. It is really concerning that the kid sex ratio in India has been steadily falling. Even the so-called developed states of India haven't fared any better than the BIMARU or undeveloped states. (Menon 1995) The author discusses India has been independent for six arduous decades, but many Indians are still mired in archaic cultural ideas. "Old beliefs" in this context refer to the mentality of those who continue to fall into the girlboy equality trap. The status of women in India is an accurate representation of the country's status as a developing country that is still a long way from becoming a developed state. Of course, India deserves to be on this list since, in the twenty-first century, girl children are still being killed before they are even born. (Yadav 2017) The author discusses the few nations in the world where men outweigh women is India. India has the lowest sex ratio among the top 10 most populous nations in the world. One of the main causes of an unbalanced child sex ratio is female foeticide. For both India and Orissa, the declining child sex ratio (CSR) is a major problem. A human rights issue is female foeticide. It is not only unfair and inhumane, but it also has negative social repercussions. (Behera 2016) the authors search gender equality and consideration of women's rights are necessary for human growth. Both men and women are a part of human civilization. Both are equally important and necessary for the survival of civilization. It is impossible for the other to exist without the first. This is an unquestionable universal truth. However, we discover that women have faced discrimination and unfair treatment in society.

METHODOLOGY:

The researcher used an Non-doctrinal empirical study the present study is descriptive in nature for the study. A total of 218 samples were collected from various sources .The method for collecting samples is a convenient sample The researcher obtained the sample utilizing an online through Google form samples are convenient samples Age, gender, Marital status, Occupation and educational qualifications are the independent factors in this study.

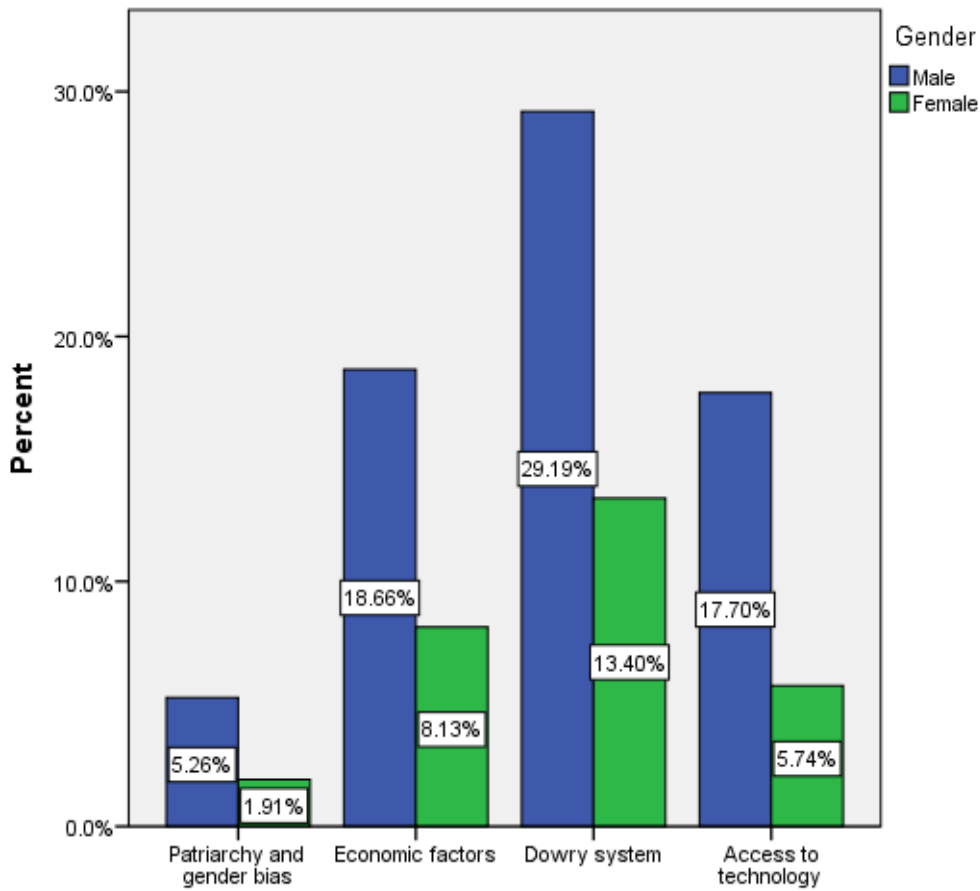
GRAPH ANALYSIS:

FIGURE 1:



LEGEND: From the Figure 1 represents the age distribution of the respondents and their opinion towards that the economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, contribute to the prevalence of female foeticide in India.

FIGURE 2:

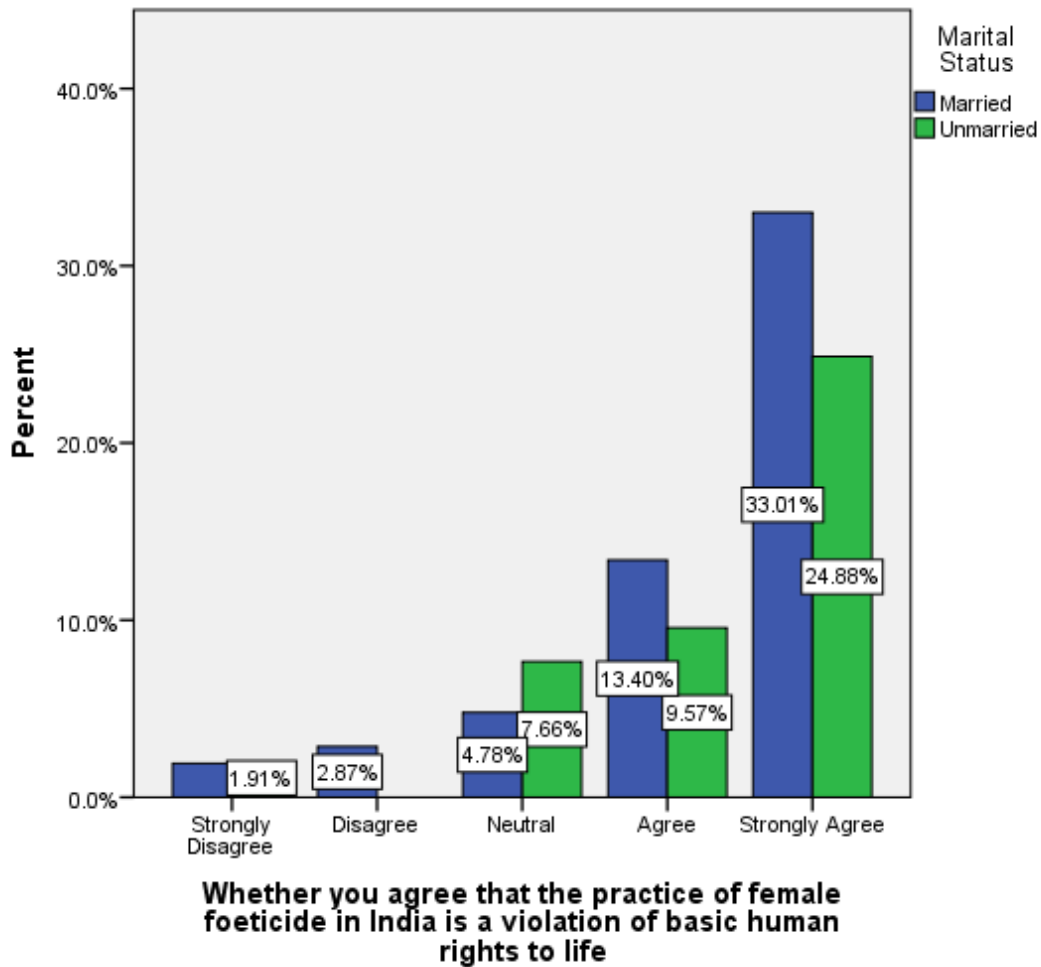


The main cause for female foeticide in India denying the right to live

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LEGEND: From Figure 2, which represents the gender distribution of the respondents and their opinions towards the main cause of female foeticide in India, denying the right to live

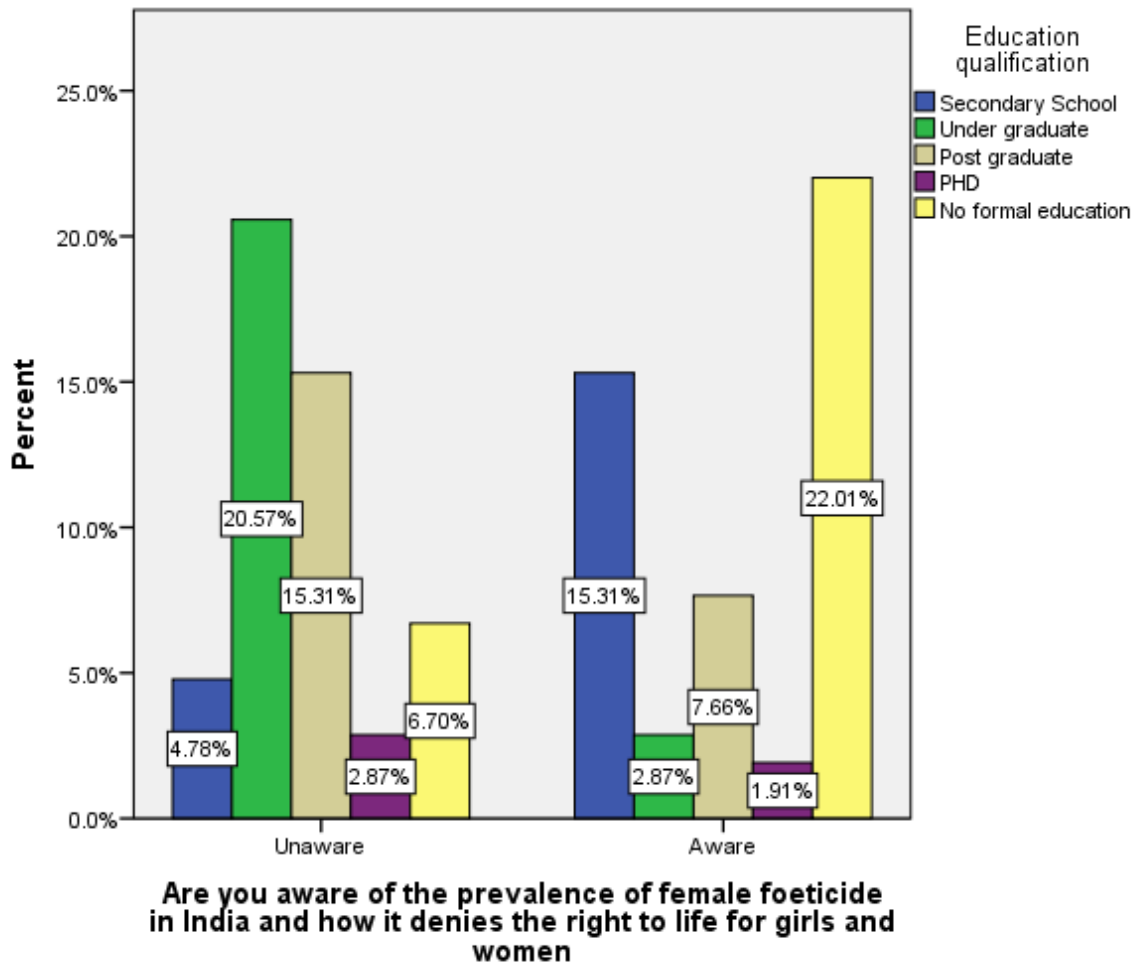
FIGURE 3:



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LEGENDS: From Figure 3, which presents the Marital status of the respondents and their opinion towards agreeing that the practice of female foeticide in India is a violation of basic human rights to life.

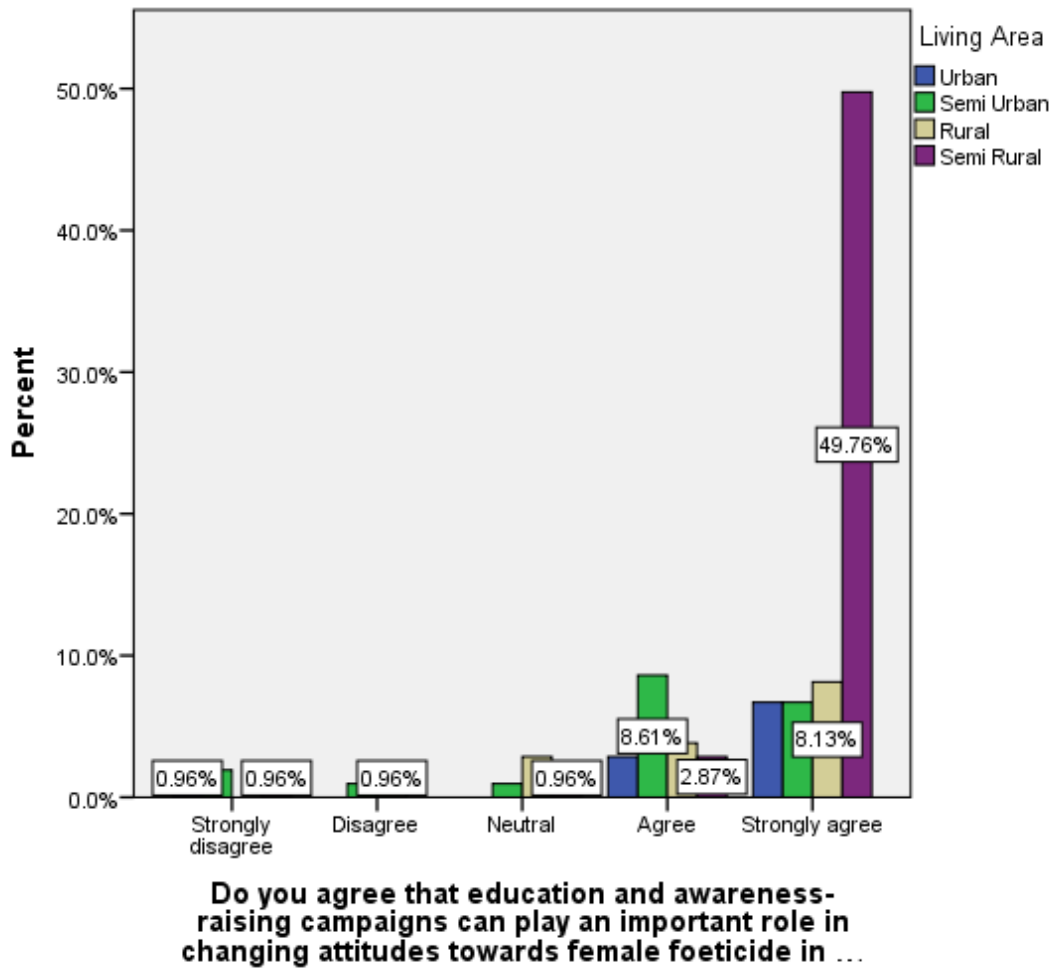
FIGURE 4:



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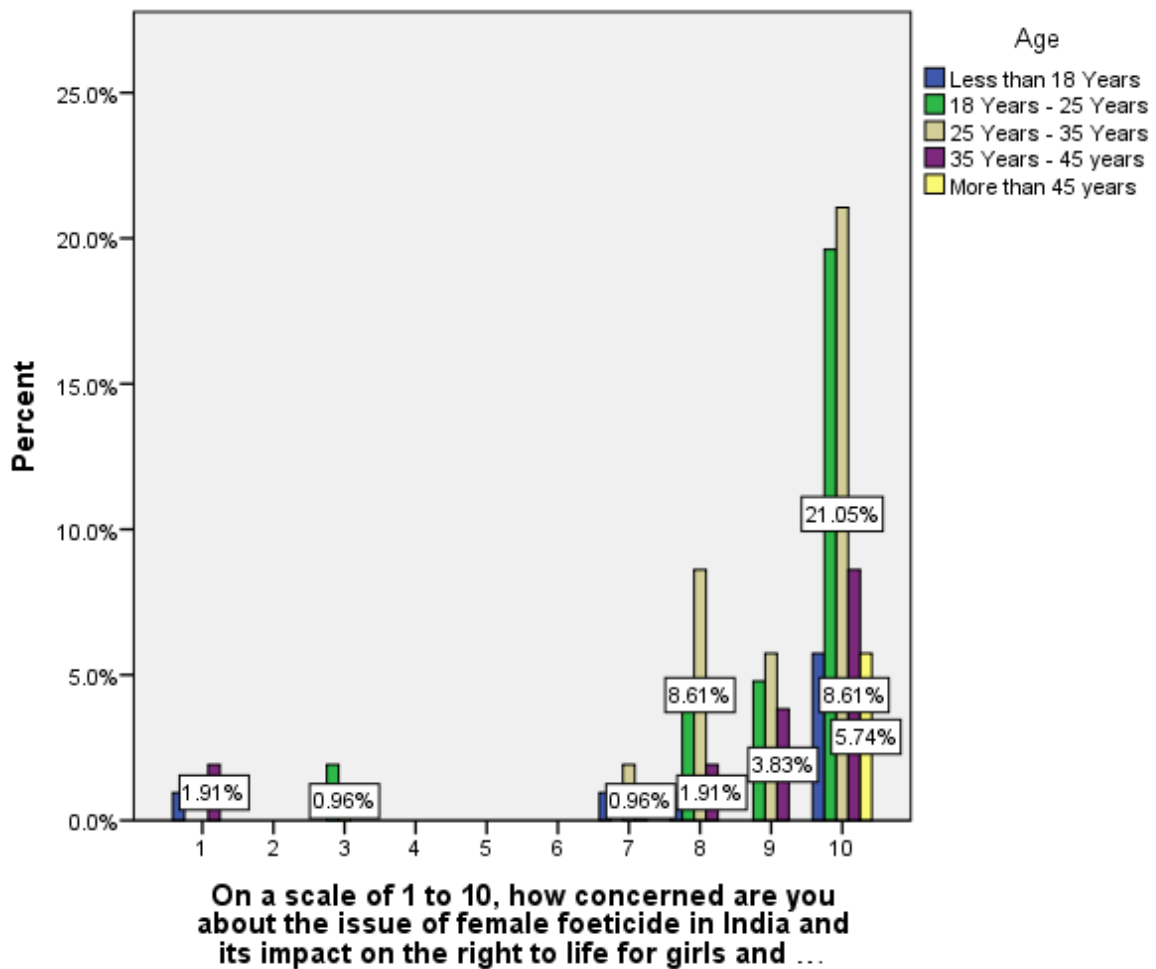
LEGEND: From Figure 4, which presents the education qualification of the respondents and their opinion towards being aware of the prevalence of female foeticide in India and how it denies the rights to life for girls and women.

FIGURE 5:



LEGEND: From Figure 5, which presents the Marital status of the respondents and their opinion towards agreeing with the education and awareness raising campaigns, attitudes towards female foeticide in India

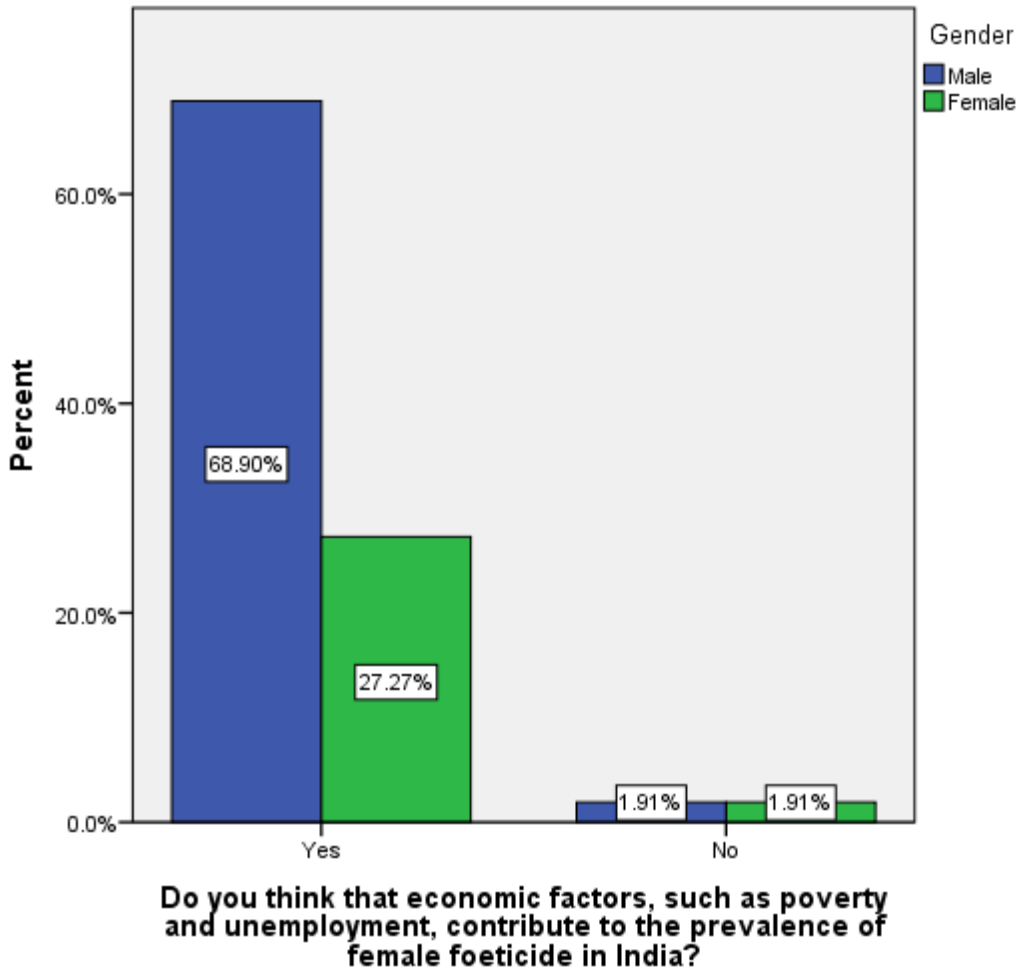
FIGURE 6:



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LEGEND: From Figure 6, which presents the Age distribution of the respondents and their opinion towards the issue of female foeticide in India and its impact on the right to life for girls, and women.

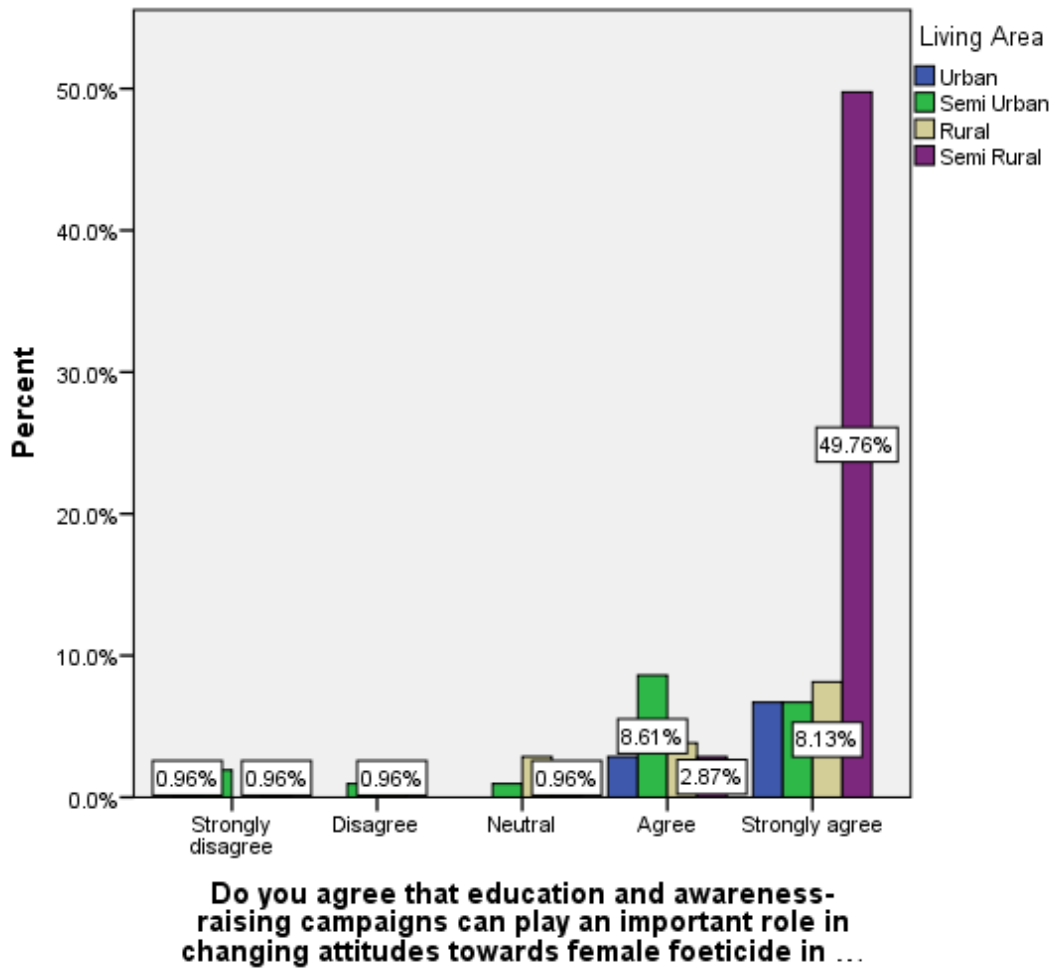
FIGURE 7:



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LEGEND: From Figure 7, which presents the Gender distribution of the respondents and their opinion towards the economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, contribute to the prevalence of female foeticide in India.

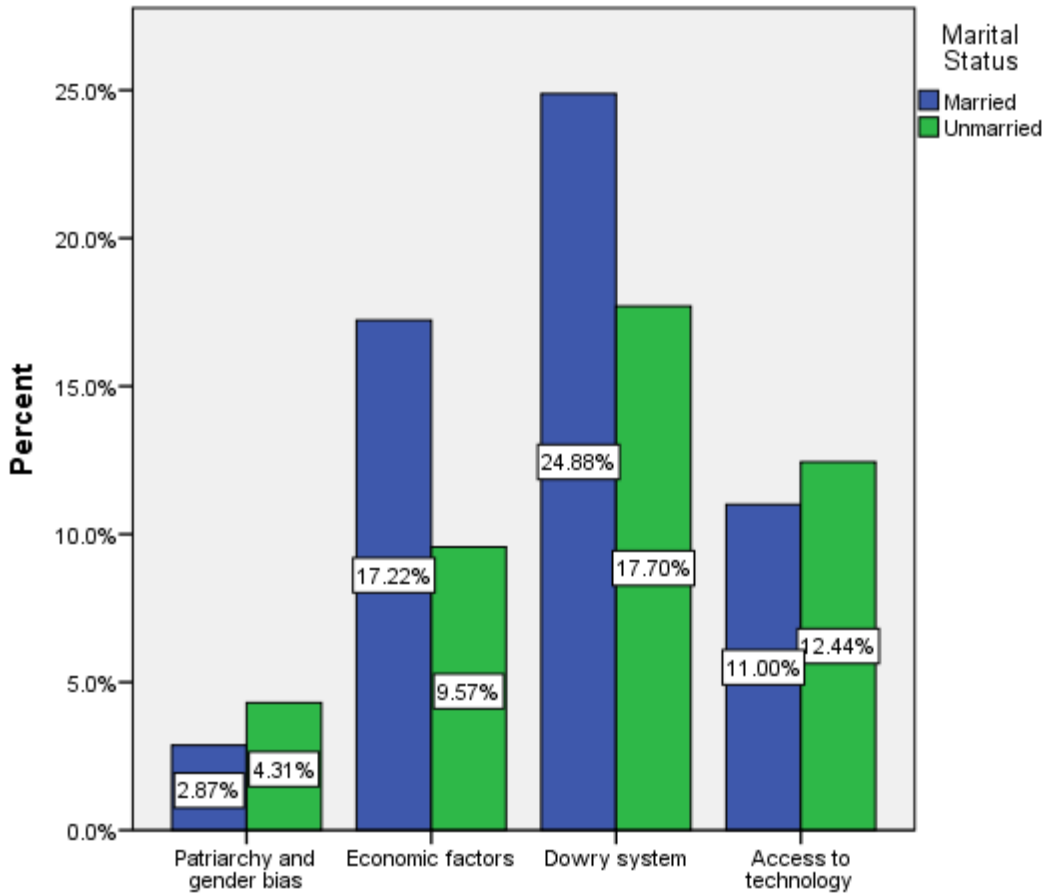
FIGURE 8:



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LEGEND: From Figure 8, which presents the Living area of the respondents and their opinion towards agreeing that the education and awareness raising campaigns can important role in changing attitudes towards female foeticide in India

FIGURE 9:

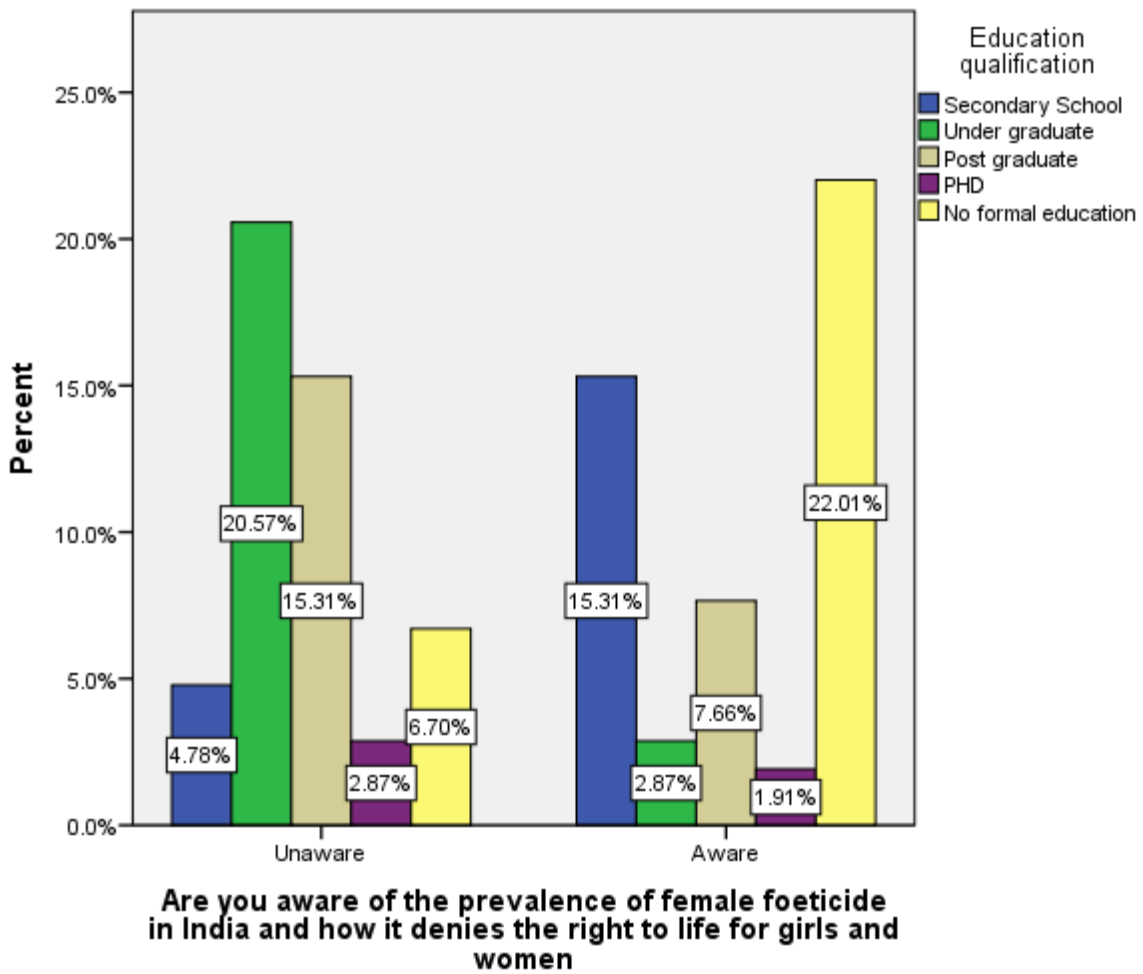


The main cause for female foeticide in India denying the right to live

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LEGEND: From Figure 9, which presents the Marital status of the respondents and their opinion towards the main cause for female foeticide in India denying the right to live.

FIGURE 10:



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LEGEND: From Figure 10, which presents the Education qualification of the respondents and their opinion towards the prevalence of the female foeticide in India and how it denies the right to life for girls and women

RESULT:

Figure 1 shows that among the sample population of respondents, those between the ages of 25 and 35 are highly rated as people's opinions (21.05%), while lower-ranking respondents are (0.96%). They also express strong opinions that economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, contribute to the prevalence of female feticide in India. **Figure 2:** The majority of respondents (29.19%) support the dowry system, with low public support for patriarchy and gender bias, which are the primary causes of female feticide in India, denying women the right to life. **FIGURE 3:** The majority of respondents (33.01%) and the lower percentage (1.91%) agree that the practice of female feticide in India is a violation of basic human rights to life. **Figure 4** shows respondents' opinions regarding awareness of the prevalence of female genital mutilation in India and how it violates women's and girls' rights to life, with the majority of respondents highly agreeing that they are aware (22.01) and others strongly disagreeing (2.81%). **FIGURE 5:** The majority of respondents are strongly in favor of education and awareness-raising campaigns and attitudes toward female genital mutilation in India, and a higher percentage of respondents who live in that area are strongly opposed (49.76). **FIGURE 6:** The majority of respondents in the age distribution of the respondents gave the issue of female genital mutilation in India and its effects on women's and girls' rights to life a highly favorable rating of 10 (21.05%), while other people's opinions of the respondents were given a low rating of 3 (0.96%). **FIGURE 7:** The majority of respondents believe that economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, contribute to the prevalence of female feticide in India. The higher percentage of respondents who identify as women (68.90%) agrees with this statement. **FIGURE 8:** The majority of respondents belonging to the respondent's living area strongly agree (49.76%) and others disagree (0.96%) that education and awareness-raising campaigns can play an important role in changing attitudes toward female foeticide in India. **FIGURE 9:** The majority of respondents are married, with the dowry system accounting for a higher percentage of respondents' marital status (24.88%), while respondents' perceptions of patriarchy and gender bias as the primary causes of female foeticide in India and denial of the right to life are held in lower regard by other respondents. **FIGURE 10:** The majority of respondents who indicated that they had a college degree strongly agreed with this statement (22.01%), and other respondents' opinions indicated that they were unaware of the prevalence of female genital mutilation in India and how it violates the rights of girls and women to life.

DISCUSSION:

FIGURE 1: some of the respondents are highly Aware the educated people they know families, burdened by financial constraints, resort to sex-selective abortions to prioritize male children.

FIGURE 2: Some of the respondents male people know about that the dowry system is a significant issue in India, it is not considered the main cause of female foeticide. Economic factors and societal preferences for male children are identified as primary factors contributing to the prevalence of female foeticide, denying girls their right to life.

FIGURE 3: Some of the respondents is the practice of female foeticide in India is widely recognized as a violation of basic human rights, specifically the right to life. It is highly agreed upon that this discriminatory practice denies girls their fundamental right to exist, perpetuating gender-based inequality and creating long-lasting social consequences.

FIGURE 4: Undergraduate level consistently supports the awareness of the prevalence of female foeticide in India and its implications on denying the rights to life for girls and women. It is widely agreed upon that this practice reflects gender-based discrimination, perpetuates gender inequality, and violates the fundamental human rights of female individuals.

FIGURE 6: semi-rural areas consistently demonstrates a high level of agreement regarding the positive impact of education and awareness-raising campaigns on attitudes towards female foeticide in India. These campaigns play a crucial role in enlightening communities about the importance of gender equality, challenging deep-rooted biases, and combating the practice of female foeticide.

FIGURE 7: The issue of female foeticide in India as highly significant, with a scale rating of 10, over the past 25 to 35 years. It is widely acknowledged that female foeticide has a profound impact on the right to life for girls and women, perpetuating gender inequality and violating their basic human rights.

FIGURE 8: The semirural areas are economic factors, including poverty and unemployment, that contribute to the prevalence of female foeticide in India. Studies have shown a strong correlation between economic challenges and the preference for male children, leading to the unfortunate practice of sex-selective abortions. Poverty and unemployment create a climate where families prioritize male offspring, exacerbating gender inequality and undermining the rights and value of female lives.

FIGURE 9: It does not highly agree that it is the main cause for female foeticide. Economic factors, such as poverty and unemployment, along with societal preferences for male children, have been identified as primary contributors to the prevalence of female foeticide. Female foeticide is a complex issue influenced by multiple factors, including gender inequality and patriarchal norms.

FIGURE 10: No formal education agrees on the importance of raising awareness about the prevalence of female foeticide in India and its impact on denying the right to life for girls and women. While these individuals may have

limited access to formal education, awareness campaigns targeting this population can effectively convey information about the issue.

LIMITATIONS:

Female foeticide is a sensitive issue, and many people are reluctant to talk about it. This can make it difficult to collect accurate information about the problem. Cultural factors can also make it difficult to understand and address female foeticide. For example, the belief in son preference is deeply rooted in Indian culture, and this can make it difficult to change people's attitudes.

SUGGESTION:

Deep-rooted societal preference for male children leads to the devaluation of female offspring. Inheritance laws and societal norms favoring male heirs contribute to the preference for male children. Poverty and unemployment drive families to prioritize male offspring due to dowry and economic burdens associated with raising girls. Weak implementation of laws prohibiting sex determination tests and female foeticide allows the practice to persist. Limited access to education and awareness about the value and rights of girls and women contribute to the continuation of female foeticide.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, female foeticide in India is a complex issue with various causes and significant impacts. The deep-rooted preference for male children, patriarchal norms, economic factors, weak law enforcement, and lack of education and awareness all contribute to its prevalence. The impacts of female foeticide include a skewed gender ratio, increased violence against women, hindered social and economic development, psychological consequences, and the perpetuation of discrimination across generations. Female foeticide has detrimental psychological effects on families, particularly on women who may face stigma and guilt for not bearing a male child. The perpetuation of the practice can result in a continuous cycle of discrimination against females and gender-based violence in subsequent generations. Gender imbalance hampers social progress and economic development as it limits the participation and contribution of women in various spheres of life.

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