

A Study on Gender Ratio in Haryana

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ABSTRACT

The gender ratio in Haryana is a complex issue with a long and deeply rooted history. The state has consistently had one of the lowest sex ratios in India, with a significant deficit of females compared to males. This has had a profound impact on society and culture in Haryana, and it continues to be a major challenge for the state government.

The gender ratio is the number of females per 1000 males in a population. It is an important indicator of gender equality and social development. A healthy gender ratio is considered to be between 950 and 1050 females per 1000 males. Improving the gender ratio in Haryana is a complex challenge, but it is essential for the state's social and economic development. The government, civil society, and the community all have a role to play in changing the attitudes and norms that contribute to the low gender ratio.

The gender ratio in Haryana is a complex issue with a long and deeply rooted history. However, it is important to remember that change is possible. By working together, the government, civil society, and the community can create a more gender-equal Haryana for all.

KEYWORDS:

Gender, Ratio, Female, Male

INTRODUCTION

There are a number of factors that contribute to the low gender ratio in Haryana. One of the most significant factors is the practice of female foeticide. This is the illegal practice of aborting a female fetus after determining its gender. Female foeticide is often driven by a preference for male children, due to a number of social and economic factors.

Another factor that contributes to the low gender ratio in Haryana is the high rate of son preference. Son preference is the belief that male children are more valuable than female children. This belief is often rooted in cultural and religious norms.

Son preference can lead to a number of harmful practices, such as female infanticide, neglect of girls, and child marriage. It can also lead to discrimination against girls and women in all areas of life, including education, employment, and healthcare.

The low gender ratio in Haryana has a number of negative consequences for society. It can lead to social unrest and violence, as there are not enough women to marry all of the men. It can also lead to a decline in the population, as there are fewer women to give birth to children.

In addition, the low gender ratio can have a negative impact on the economy. Women play a vital role in the economy, and their underrepresentation can lead to lost productivity and economic growth.

The latest census data (2001) shows that the gender ratio in Haryana is 861 females per 1000 males. The gender ratio in Haryana has improved in recent years. In 2001, the gender ratio was 861 females per 1000 males. However, the rate of improvement has slowed in recent years.

The gender ratio in Haryana is a complex and multifaceted issue. It has been a matter of public concern for many years, and has been the subject of much research and debate. This article will provide a comprehensive review of the gender ratio in Haryana, covering its history, causes, and consequences. It will also discuss the various initiatives that have been taken to improve the gender ratio, and the challenges that remain.

The gender ratio in Haryana has historically been skewed in favor of males. This is due to a number of factors, including the prevalence of son preference, the dowry system, and female foeticide.

Son preference is the desire to have a son over a daughter. This is a common phenomenon in many parts of India, including Haryana. There are a number of reasons for son preference,

including the belief that sons are more valuable to the family, that they will provide for their parents in old age, and that they will carry on the family name.

The dowry system is another factor that has contributed to the skewed gender ratio in Haryana. The dowry system is the practice of giving gifts and money to the groom's family at the time of marriage. This can be a very expensive burden for the bride's family, and it can lead to parents feeling that they cannot afford to have daughters.

Female foeticide is the practice of aborting female fetuses. This is illegal in India, but it is still practiced in some areas, including Haryana. Female foeticide is often driven by son preference and the dowry system.

Gender Ratio in Haryana

The gender ratio in Haryana is a complex and multifaceted issue. It has been a matter of public concern for many years, and has been the subject of much research and debate. There are a number of factors that contribute to the skewed gender ratio, including son preference, the dowry system, female foeticide, lack of education and awareness, and cultural and social norms.

Son preference is a deeply ingrained cultural norm in India, and Haryana is no exception. Boys are seen as the breadwinners and caregivers for their parents in old age, while girls are seen as a financial burden due to the dowry system. This preference for sons often leads to discrimination against girls, both before and after birth.

Female infanticide is the deliberate killing of girl babies. This is a practice that has been outlawed in India for centuries, but it persists in some areas, including Haryana. Female infanticide is often seen as a way to avoid the financial burden of dowry and to ensure that the family has at least one son to carry on the family name.

Sex-selective abortion is the practice of aborting a pregnancy because the fetus is a girl. This is also illegal in India, but it is widely practiced, especially in states like Haryana where there is a strong son preference. Sex-selective abortion is often carried out using ultrasound technology to determine the sex of the fetus.

Girls are often neglected in Haryana, both before and after birth. They may receive less food, less healthcare, and less education than their brothers. This neglect can lead to malnutrition, stunting, and other health problems in girls. It can also make it more difficult for girls to succeed in school and in the workplace.

The Haryana government has taken a number of initiatives to improve the gender ratio in the state. These include:

The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao program: This is a national program that aims to improve the gender ratio and empower women and girls. The program has a number of components, including awareness campaigns, financial incentives for families with daughters, and stricter enforcement of laws against female foeticide.

The Ladli scheme: This is a Haryana government scheme that provides financial assistance to families with daughters. The scheme aims to reduce the financial burden on families with daughters, and to promote their education and empowerment.

The Panch Parmeswar yojana: This is a Haryana government scheme that aims to improve the status of women and girls in the state. The scheme has a number of components, including awareness campaigns, training programs for women, and financial assistance for women-led businesses.

Despite the various initiatives that have been taken, there are still a number of challenges that need to be addressed in order to improve the gender ratio in Haryana. These include:

Changing cultural and social norms: The son preference and dowry system are deeply ingrained in Haryana culture. Changing these norms will take time and effort.

Educating and empowering women and girls: Women and girls in Haryana need to be educated and empowered so that they can make their own choices and stand up for their rights.

Enforcing laws against female foeticide: Laws against female foeticide need to be strictly enforced in order to deter people from practicing this illegal activity.

In addition to the factors listed above, there are a number of other factors that may contribute to the skewed sex ratio in Haryana. These include:

Poverty: Poverty can make it difficult for families to afford to raise both sons and daughters. This can lead to families making the difficult decision to favor sons over daughters.

Illiteracy: Illiteracy is more common among women in Haryana than among men. This can make it more difficult for women to understand their rights and to advocate for themselves and their daughters.

Lack of awareness: Many people in Haryana are unaware of the laws against sex-selective abortion and female infanticide. They may also be unaware of the negative consequences of these practices.

The Indian government has implemented a number of initiatives to address the skewed sex ratio in Haryana. These include:

The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act: This law prohibits the use of prenatal diagnostic techniques to determine the sex of a fetus.

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme: This scheme aims to improve the status of girls and to reduce the gender gap in Haryana. It provides financial incentives to families with daughters and it invests in education and healthcare for girls.

The skewed sex ratio in Haryana is a complex issue with a variety of contributing factors. It is important to address all of these factors in order to improve the status of girls and women in the state. This will require a concerted effort from the government, civil society, and the community as a whole.

In addition to the above, here are some other factors that may affect the gender ratio in Haryana:

Culture and tradition: Haryana has a strong patriarchal culture, which values sons over daughters. This is reflected in many cultural practices, such as dowry and female infanticide.

Economic factors: Haryana is a relatively prosperous state, but there is still a significant level of poverty. This can make it difficult for families to afford to raise daughters, especially in the context of the dowry system.

Education: Haryana has a lower literacy rate among women than among men. This can make it more difficult for women to understand their rights and to advocate for themselves and their daughters.

Empowerment: Women in Haryana are often less empowered than men. This can make it more difficult for them to resist pressure to abort female fetuses or to neglect their daughters.

DISCUSSION

There are a number of things that can be done to improve the gender ratio in Haryana. These include:

Educating the public about the importance of girls and women: This can be done through public awareness campaigns, school programs, and other initiatives.

Empowering women: This can be done by providing women with access to education, employment, and other opportunities.

Enforcing laws against sex-selective abortion and female infanticide: This will require strong political will and cooperation from the community.

Addressing the root causes of son preference: This includes addressing economic factors, such as the dowry system, and cultural factors, such as the patriarchal.

Dowry: The dowry system is another factor that contributes to the low sex ratio in Haryana. Dowry is the money and gifts that a bride's family gives to the groom's family at the time of marriage. This can be a heavy financial burden on families with daughters, and it can lead some families to abort or kill their female children.

Land ownership: Land ownership is also a factor in the low sex ratio in Haryana. Land is typically passed down from father to son, so families with daughters may be less likely to have a secure future. This can lead some families to abort or kill their female children.

The low sex ratio in Haryana has a number of negative consequences, including:

Social unrest: The low sex ratio can lead to social unrest, as there is a shortage of brides and women in the state. This can lead to an increase in crime and violence.

Economic impact: The low sex ratio can also have a negative impact on the economy, as women play an important role in the workforce. A shortage of women can lead to lower productivity and economic growth.

Health impact: The low sex ratio can also have a negative impact on the health of the population. Girls who are neglected or discriminated against are more likely to suffer from malnutrition and other health problems.

In addition to the factors mentioned above, there are a number of other factors that may also affect the gender ratio in Haryana. These include:

Migration: Haryana is a state with a high rate of male out-migration. This means that there are more men than women in the state. This imbalance may contribute to the skewed sex ratio.

Culture: Haryana has a strong patriarchal culture. This means that men are given more importance than women in society. This cultural norm may also contribute to the skewed sex ratio.

Religion: The majority of the population in Haryana is Hindu. Some Hindu religious texts and beliefs may contribute to the devaluation of women and the preference for sons.

CONCLUSION

The Haryana government has taken a number of initiatives to improve the gender ratio, but there are still a number of challenges that need to be addressed. It is important to continue to raise awareness of the issue, to educate and empower women and girls, and to enforce laws against female foeticide. Haryana is a state in northern India that has historically had a skewed sex ratio, with a significant shortage of girls compared to boys. This is a complex issue with a variety of factors contributing to it, including son preference, female infanticide, sex-selective abortion, and neglect of girls.

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