

REPORT

State Level Seminar

on

Female Feticide and Protection of Girl Child

Jamshedpur, Jharkhand on 31st March, 2013

Organised by

Deep Welfare Organisation

Time: 10:00 Am – 05:00 Pm

**Place: Chamber Hall, Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce, Bisthupur, Jamshedpur,
Jharkhand**

Background

DEEP Welfare Organisation has organised a seminar to promote awareness and sensitize people on the serious issue of **Female Feticide and Protection of Girl Child** at Chamber Hall, Bisthupur, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand on 31st March, 2013 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The Major concern behind organizing this seminar is the declining child sex ratio (0-6 years) in Jharkhand as per 2011 census in different districts has been i.e. Gumla (955), Chatra (963), Giridih (934), Dumka (957), Lohardagga (961) etc. The poor sex ratio has been in the district of Bokaro (912), Dhanbad (917), Deoghar (939), East Singhbhum (922), Garhwa (958) and Sahibganj (955). The poor sex ratio is more marked in the districts having urban and industrial growth. Infant mortality for the state ranks 8th and in all state comparisons child mortality is ranked 14th according to NFHS. Existing laws permit female marriage at the age of 18 years, but generally in Jharkhand, it is performed at a lower age. Early marriage of girls is one of the contributing factors to high fertility, high maternal, infant and child mortality; pregnancy loss, still birth & abortions.

Objective

The main objective behind this seminar is to bring the overall problems in harmonious growth of the girl child, and the role society can play towards achievement of this goal.

- 1) To improve the status of the girl child by addressing the declining child sex ratio in India.
- 2) To ensure better health and nutrition for the girl child.
- 3) To ensure the right to education for the girl child.
- 4) To strengthen and address the issue of the Sex Selection and discrimination with Girl child and ensure the effective Implementation of PC-PNDT Act 1994.
- 5) To explore other methodologies for Protection of Girl Child by Civil Society, Government and Media.

Participants

The participants in the seminar was Dr. Ajay Kumar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Jamshedpur, Mr. R. K. Mishra, Additional Commissioner, East Singhbhum, Mr. Vijay Anand Munka, General Secretary, Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Vikram Dutt, Chairman, Mano Vikas Community College, Dr. S. S. Prasad, Superintendent, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, Jamshedpur, Mr. R. K. Panda, Nodal Officer PNDT, East Singhbhum, Mr. Ranjit Kumar, Editor, Prabhat Khabar, Miss Lalita Sareen, Chairperson, Swayam(NGO), Mr. Ajay Prakash, Secretary, Deep Welfare Organisation, Mr. Saiyd Imtiyaz Hasan, Executive Member, Deep Welfare Organisation, Jharkhand.

Proceedings

The Seminar consisted of four sessions including the Inaugural session.

Session I: Inaugural Session (10:30 am- 12:30 pm)



The Seminar was hosted by Miss Shivani, who introduced and invited the guests on dais to take their seats for the further proceedings. After that Mr. Ajay Prakash, Secretary, Deep Welfare Organisation welcomed the guests by Bouquet. Then welcome song was presented by Ms. Kavita and Ms. Kajal in the honour of all guests and participants. Welcome song was followed by the introductory speech by secretary of Deep Welfare Organisation Mr. Ajay Prakash. Mr. Ajay Prakash focused on the relevance of organizing seminars and making the people aware of the present situation and also discussing a way out for such situation. He had thrown light on the situation of the girl child in India and focused on their social security and other prevailing assaults during several phases of life of a girl child. A Nukkad Natak was presented followed by the speech on “Beta-Beti ek Saman” by Mr. Anil, Mr. Sunil, Mr. Alok, Ms. Kajal, Ms. Bharti and Ms. Poonam the Nukkad Natak was focused on the importance of equality of both the sexes in development.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Member of Parliament who was also the Chief Guest was invited to present his views. Dr. kumar said the gender equality is very important for the society and we cannot achieve this goal alone without participation of the general public. He reminded us about the Laws prevailing in our country to minimize female foeticide and protection from dowry, but he

also stressed on that these laws cannot be effective without the participation of the general public. He said the people of our country have to take strong steps towards gender equality and only their participation can make a difference. Mr. R. K. Mishra said today there is no difference between Girl and Boy, he considered them equally important for the development of the society. He focused on education and other social aspects which is important in overall development of a girl child and he urged for equal facility and platform for both the genders to flourish properly. He also focused on Dowry and Dowry related problems and urged not to give and take Dowry to the listeners. Mr. Vijay Anand Munka showed his concerns about Unsuccessful efforts to save girl child. He raised a question as how to make it a success. He also focused on adoption and specially focused on girl child adoption. He told about illegal sex detection going on which leads to female feticides and further making the difference between the sex ratio which is a major concern. Mr. Vikram Dutt shared his views and told that the topic is very important and relevant for the time and it is the need of the hour. He shared his concern on decreasing sex ratio. He gave example of farmers that farmers want male child instead of female child because male child would help them in farming and irrigation. He suggested forming tractor co-operatives for farmers. He was concerned on the dowry system in our country. Mr. Dutt told that because of dowry system people does not prefer girl child. He told that girl child care more for parents than male child.



Session II: Status of Girl Child in Jharkhand (12:30 pm – 1:30 pm)

In this session Dr. S. S. Prasad had an interactive session with the participants and said that about 10,000 deaths per year is happening because of unsafe abortions. He told that 4 million illegal abortions are taking place. He informed that how people are eager to determine sex of their child before birth and how this eventually leads to foeticide of the female fetus and discrimination. He also stressed on the laws which are made to tackle this situations and are failing due to lack of public participation.



Lunch: 1:30pm – 2:30 pm)

Session III: Effective implementation of PC-PNDT & MTP Act (2:30 pm – 3:30 pm)



Mr. R. K. Panda informed about MTP Act and it was formed in 10/08/71 and came to force in 01/04/72. He told to the participants by her beautiful power point presentation about MTP Act. He told that under circumstances like risk to life of pregnant women, grave injury to physical/ mental health of mother, child born can be seriously handicapped, rape, failure of contraceptives. He also told the participants about the places and situations under which MTP is allowed and who are the people authorized to do an MTP. He accepted the thoughts of Dr. Prasad on sex determination and also the effects of determination, and how law is incapable of dealing such situation due to the syndication of practitioner and the public. He argued the people sitting there that both the sexes are equally important and we should not hamper the development of females.

Session IV: Role of Government, Media and Civil Society for protection of Girl Child (3:30pm – 4:30 pm)



In this session Mr. Ranjit Kumar focused on adoption of girl child. He told that people have to be made aware about the procedure of adoption. He also emphasized that the whole process have to be simplified. He had also thrown light on the stigma of adoption. He discussed some live examples of how the adopted child faces stigma in school, college, society. He also focused on poor child ratio in India and told about some socio-cultural factors and religious for the same.

Miss Lalita Sareen asked the participants that whether they have ever visited any adoption agency yet. She requested everyone to visit adoption agency and spend at least 2-3 hours there. Miss Sareen also focused on legal background of child protection system. She told about J.J. Act 2006 that it is difficult to implement. She briefed about how to start an adoption agency. The Pre-requisites to start an adoption agency as told by her is a registered society or trust having a children home. Also a domestic license has to be taken under Article 41. And for inter country adoptions CARA license is required. She also stressed on equal education for both the sexes for their overall development.

Vote of Thanks

Vote of thanks to all the guest & participants has been given by Mr Saiyd Imtiyaz Hasan, Executive Member, Deep Welfare Organisation, Jharkhand, he thanked all our Guests and participants for their sincere efforts for making this happen.

Observations/ Recommendations

The seminar was concluded by following observations and recommendations.

1. Implementation of law is necessary but in lack of public participation law alone cannot do the whole thing; public participation could be increase through awareness.
2. Dowry could be a major cause for gender discrimination.
3. Education and awareness will surely minimize the gender discrimination.
4. Civil society and media should promote awareness and harness the process of growth among the people.