

Why Cradle? Let her be to the Deathbed Instead!

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Abstract

**“Don’t protect her just because you might need her.
Instead, let her live, because you don’t have the right to kill her!”¹**

For more than several decades the practice of infanticide is being prevent across the globe. A society where the right to life is not just granted to the people living but even to those who are still to be born, is becoming a curse for infants. This modern society who is developing not just their state of living but also their thought process still lacks behind in accepting the child born due to the gender of the child, poverty, their deformity, societal pressure, socio-economic factors, cultural variations, customs, and practices prevailing and many more factors. This Act of killing an infant, remains a grave and distressing issue worldwide. This paper deals with the complexity of causes which the haunting subject of Infanticide aims to deepen the understanding of this heinous crime by shedding light on the deep-rooted sociological and psychological factors that contribute to such acts along with the various laws, schemes, and initiatives taken by the Indian government in order to abolish this dreadful practice and inspire potential solutions for betterment of the society. Initially, certain provisions of IPC were enacted in order to curb Infanticide which later added with the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 along with several other Acts and Schemes fulfilled the need of legislations.

Keywords: Infanticide, society, Female Infanticide, sociological, religious, cultural, modern society, killing, infant.

¹ Saanvi Singla Available at, “[Laws Against Female Foeticide In ” www.blog.iPleaders.com](http://www.blog.iPleaders.com) (Last visited 1/12/2022)

Introduction

Infanticide can also be known as Infant Homicide or the crime of killing a child within a year of birth which is a violation of Right to Life of Children and Human Rights Violation. Infanticide is an undeniably a heinous crime which goes against the fundamental principles of Human rights as enshrined under the Human Rights and the sanctity of life i.e., both morally and legally wrong.

Who are we to decide their Lifespan? Who are we to take away their Right to Life? Who are we to not let them open their eyes and decide death for them? Instead of welcoming the newborn to this colorful world with infinite possibilities, we choose to make their first breath their last one! Who are we to choose that for them? Does giving birth also give the right to take away life? Humans today have reached Mars, but still forgets the basic identity, the reason we are called 'Humans' which is none other than 'Humanity' that exists within us. Why are we neglecting it and letting ourselves be controlled by the 'criminals' of our mind, even when we know we are not onto a correct path – a path of killing an infant, a child just born!

India, a land of sacred traditions and diversifying culture, where in the Epic Mahabharata even the unmarried Kunti could not fathom the thought of killing her child Karna. When a noble, resilient woman cannot, then who are we to kill the child! A land of such a culture wherein the birth of the child is celebrated just like any other festival and now killings are happening there! A society where the birth of a child is a blessing, regardless of the fact infants are tragically killed for various reasons. How can one possibly justify the killings of the infant who was just born, who have just taken their first breath, by the very humans who consider them as a gift from God and are now killing the innocent! Not just a single religion but across all religions and faiths present on the Earth, the belief is unanimous: the birth of a child is a blessing of God, a gift of the Almighty and a grace to cherish and nurture with full responsibility. It is a mockery that in a developing nation like India, where females are considered as Goddesses, there still exists the dark reality of Female

Infanticide, where a child is killed just because she was born as a Girl! It serves as a haunting reminder of the depths of human depravity and despite the progress and advancements, it has left an indelible mark on societies worldwide.

Sub Categories of Infanticide

Filicide is the term basically used for killing of a child by their own parents.² It is further divided as Neonaticide and Infanticide.

Neonaticide: It majorly deals with the killing of the child within 24 hours from the time it was born. This offense is majorly committed by the women who either give away birth far away from hospital and then suffocate, strangle, or drown away the unwanted newborn before hiding the corpse, or want to conceal the pregnancy, or cannot bear to have a child at that point of time.³

Infanticide: It mainly deals with the killing of the young children. It is majorly committed not because of the reason that the female cannot bear the child but by those women who use a variety of violent methods during the child's growth, or is neglect to removal of an unwanted child, or child abuse.⁴ The further classification can be done for Infanticide on the following basis:

Direct Infanticide: Also known as Active Infanticide wherein, the baby is killed intentionally by suffocating, dehydrating, starving or any other method for instant killing. This method is generally used by fathers or other members of the family for committing the crime.

Indirect Infanticide: Also known as Passive Infanticide. Here, the baby is not taken care of and the baby is killed due to inadequate nutrition or due to negligence of its parents.

² Theresa Porter and Helen Gavin, "Infanticide and Neonaticide: A Review of 40 Years of Research Literature on Incidence and Causes" available at: [researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net) (Last visited on: 4/12/2022)

³ Supra Note 2 at 2.

⁴ Id. At 2.

Here, the difference between abortion and passive infanticide is negligible except the fact that abortion is done before the child is being born and Infanticide is committed after the child is being born.

Causes of Infanticide

The main and important causes of Infanticide are majorly the social evils which are still commonly practiced in country like ours. Among the most prevailing, population control is the one basis reason for Infanticide wherein particularly female infanticide are tied to death. An example wherein a woman allegedly kills infant daughter 4 hours after birth in Gujarat.⁵ If illegitimate child is being marriage and families due to dishonor does not want to keep that child either those conceived after rape or even extra marital affairs just like in the case of Cheluvi V. State of Kerala. Not just this but births from unmarried women, teenage pregnancy, an unmarried girl being pregnant, a female has conceived on account of promise of marriage but has later deceived. Is also included in this cause.

Secondly, when infants are born with Congenital Defects or birth defects which occurs when the baby is in fetus and can lead to deformity in the body parts or in its functioning. At times, the defects can be so severe that a child may be unable to survive and die or else if born with such a deformity the family may kill it thinking not being able to survive in the harsh society.⁶ If the child is born premature or with a condition wherein it will not be able to survive not more than a time period. Or the medical condition of the mother who is having internal bleeding, loosened cervix or other factors which might lead to bring the life of mother in danger would then choose for infanticide in order to save the mother of the child. Thirdly, when future risk is created either to baby or wife wherein the birth of the child is not without risks and chances are such that either of them can die in a few hours. Also, there can be conditions wherein the baby is born as pre-mature with may lead to a disease that the child is born with, certain complications wherein the chances of baby dying are maximum or the family cannot afford further treatments of the child leading to a decision of killing the baby. Ex: The Sky is Pink movie

⁵ Available at NDTV, <https://www.ndtv.com> "Woman Allegedly Kills Infant Daughter 4 Hours After Birth in Gujarat" (last visited on 10/12/2022)

⁶ Available at <https://www.verywellhealth.com/leading-causes-of-infant-death/1132374/primary-injury-drowning/> "Top 10 Causes of Infant Death in the United States"(last visited on 10/12/2022)

Among the biggest reason for infanticide (especially Female infanticide) is the inclusion of private Ultrasound Screening Centers where the sex of the baby is told and if it is a girl then they prepare themselves to get rid of the girl child. It is a Girl: The Three Deadliest Words in the World is a documentary wherein an Indian woman claimed that she had killed her 8 daughters on the pretext that they were born as a girl child.⁷ Apart from lack of awareness and poor economic conditions the girl child is subjected to various kinds of abuse, harm and violence inform of harassment, domestic violence, rape etc. and because they cannot afford earning their livelihood, they end up killing the infant after it is born which is considered as the most productive and effective way to control starvation. Narrow mindset of people with the notion that women are meant to get married and move to their husband's house would limit their thinking and are considered as a financial burden on them.⁸ The concept of paraaya dhan (Alien Money) states that the spendings done on a girl child is futile as she will go to her matrimonial house i.e., a spending with no returns and following false, irrational, and unreasonable beliefs based on the society they reside in and the family's absurd beliefs plays a major role being a cause of a practice such as Infanticide. It is very well described in the movie 'Chhorii' which triggered how dreadful a crime is when it is done under the name of an unjustifiable custom '**honor killing**' and such concepts still prevail in the developing society.⁹

In case of Female genital mutilation (FGM) which comprises of processes wherein the genital parts of a female is removed either partially or completely for non- medical purposes. It damages the healthy genital tissues of the female leading to interference in the natural working of the female's body which causes harm not just to the female but also creates complications in giving birth and risk is being increased of the newborn child

⁷ It's a Girl: The Three Deadliest Words in the World (2012) | Watch Free Documentaries Online (watchdocumentaries.com)

⁸ "Major Reasons and Causes of Female Infanticide in India" available at <https://www.savethechildren.in/blog/others/female-infanticide-in-india/> (last visited on 19/12/2022)

⁹ Available at [Chhorii: Latest News, Videos and Photos of Chhorii | Times of India \(indiatimes.com\)](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Chhorii-Latest-News-Videos-and-Photos-of-Chhorii/articleshow/9688888.cms) (last visited on 21/12/2022)

which thereby creates a need for surgeries later. It is mostly carried out on females in between infancy and adolescence.¹⁰

If the child is not of the desired gender which the family wishes to have then the family would either ask to try for another one and if the number increases but the result does not come as per their wills then they force the parents to commit Infanticide. Another factor is where the family can't afford another child but the child is born and wouldn't be able to abort as it brings life dangers to the mother then, infanticide is chosen. Even in cases where the parents are risking to bring up the child but the joint family does not agree to do so considering the condition then, Infanticide is done. At times, even mental illness can also be a cause for Infanticide where an unstable state of mother, father, any member, or any person surrounding the child who can commit infanticide because of reasons such as enmity, revenge, jealousy, to stop the lineage or transfer of property. Ex: A child being murdered by women in lieu of the fight with the father.

Furthermore, altruistic reasons became a key factor wherein a child is killed because the mother or parents could imagine the child's real suffering. Ex: a mother who planned to kill herself kills the child as well to avoid the suffering the child might face when she has gone thus, kills the child too and many other such causes under which either of the parents or both or else the relatives may end up killing the child.

¹⁰ "Female genital mutilation" Available at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation> last visited on: 29/12/2022

Analysis of Crime Rate of Infanticide in India

1) NCRB Report of India 2015

According to the **NCRB report of India 2015**, a total of 91 cases of 'Infanticide' were registered wherein there was a decline in the incidents by 24.8%. There was a decline from 121 cases in 2014 to 98 cases in 2015 as per the NCRB Report.

Though there were several states which covers the major part in the happening of this crime which are:

- Madhya Pradesh (25 cases)
- Rajasthan (18 cases)
- Uttar Pradesh (9 cases)

As per the decreasing order of Crime cases registered. Whereas the Crime rate of states including Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi was 0.1 each during 2015.¹¹

2) NCRB Report of India 2020

The Crime rate has increased from the year 2015 to 2020. The Crime committed in the year 2020 are as follows:

- Madhya Pradesh (271 cases)
- Haryana (89 cases)
- Rajasthan (125 cases)
- Uttar Pradesh (163 cases)

As per the decreasing order of Crime cases registered. The Crime rate differs from 2015 to 2020 as 0.2.¹²

3) NCRB Report 2021

The Crime rate though has not faced a major change since the year 2021 but there is a lack in efficiency of work seen in the executive function.

¹¹ Available at [Chapter 6-15.11.16 2015.pdf \(ncrb.gov.in\)](#) (last visited on 01/01/2023)

¹² Available at [CII 2020 Volume 1.pdf \(ncrb.gov.in\)](#) last visited on (02 /01/2023)

Total number of cases registered for investigation: 169 cases

Cases still pending from the previous year (including total number of cases registered):
90 cases

Cases reported in the year of 2021: 79 cases¹³

Though there is a little decline can be seen in the cases of Infanticide which are registered from 2020 to the year 2021 but it will lead to pendency of the cases if the investigation is not being done timely. The practice of Infanticide is still prevalent in rural areas in the name of customs and religious and false beliefs which needs to be eradicated not just from the top but from the source in order to not let it be a choice.

I. Infanticide and Religion

Quoting the verses from **the Bible**, the holy book of Christians wherein it clearly states that 'CHILDREN ARE A BLESSING OF THE LORD':

3. Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.

4. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.

5. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

-----**Psalms 127:3-5**¹⁴

Even in the holy book of Muslims, **Quran** it is mentioned that the day when a child is born is termed as a great day i.e., a day of celebration in order to welcome the child to this world. It is also mentioned as per the Islamic view that male children should not be preferred over the female ones and raising the females is also a source of great reward. Thus, not in favor of Infanticide. It is quoted as below:

“And when the news of (the birth of) a female (child) is brought to any of them, his face becomes dark, and he is filled with inward

¹³ Available at [CII_2021Volume_1.pdf \(ncrb.gov.in\)](https://www.ncrb.gov.in/CII_2021Volume_1.pdf) (last visited on 26/01/2023)

¹⁴ The Holy Bible, Psalm 127:3-5 available at: Psalm 127:3 CEV - Children are a blessing and a gift from - Bible Gateway

grief! He hides himself from the people because of the evil of that whereof he has been informed. Shall he keep her with dishonor or bury her in the earth? Certainly, evil is their decision.”¹⁵

“And God said, ‘Oh humankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, who created you from a single person (Adam) and from Him (Adam) He created his wife (Eve), and from them both He created many men and women.”¹⁶

Previously, in Islam the Arabs used to practice Infanticide wherein female babies were buried alive to death but this practice was termed as ignorant and Prophet Muhammad stated in terms of Female Infanticide that “female children are a blessing and that raising them to be righteous believers is a source of great reward.”¹⁷

Even from the Hindu Sacred texts, epics and puranas, it is evident that the Hindus considers not just a child but “**each and every individual has God within**” as stated in Bhagavad Gita thus, a child who is born has been born with a purpose of living and should not die before its fulfillment and has to take birth until the purpose of his/her birth is fulfilled.¹⁸

Furthermore, In Treta Yuga¹⁹ Ramayana, the king of Mithila, Janak found goddess Sita in a box of treasure, alive, to his surprise, while tilling a barren land. The king,

¹⁵ Aisha Stacey “What Islam says about Children (Part 2 of 5): Children are blessings not possessions” Quran 16:58 & 59 published on 26 April 2010 *available at:* What Islam Says About Children (part 2 of 5): Children are Blessings not Possessions - The Religion of Islam (islamreligion.com)

¹⁶ Quran 4:1

¹⁷ Quran 4:1

¹⁸ Bhagavad Gita is a Sacred Hindu Sculpture which is a part of the Indian Epic, Mahabharata wherein the conversation between Lord Krishna and Arjuna (a Pandava) was recorded to guide Arjun addressing all his doubts in order to follow the path of self- realization, righteousness as his duty which will lead to a purposeful life.

¹⁹ There are 4 Yugas divided as per the Hindu texts namely, Satyuga, Tretayug (You of Lord Ram), Dwaparyug (Yuga of Lord Krishna) and Kaliyug as the last one as per their decrease in trust, faith, honesty and all other good qualities in oneself.

wholeheartedly grateful to the divine, held her in his hands as his daughter, who was later named as Janaki, the daughter of Janak.²⁰

In Mahabharata also, Kunti who gave birth to Karna before her marriage with King Pandu and out of social stigma set him afloat on a river which was then raised by a charioteer named Adhiratha but didn't even think of killing him which clearly shows that Infanticide was never prevalent in the Hindu Culture as well.²¹

There are several rituals performed not just when a baby comes into the world but far before that when it is still there in the womb of the mother in order to protect and for the strong physical growth of the baby.²² And each and every ceremony is done with full care and caution as to not affect the growth of the child in a negative manner.

Even as per Sikhism, the birth of a child is treated as a special gift from God and therefore is celebrated. It is believed that birth is special because it provides an opportunity to the person to know and grow close with God. In Sikhism also, several rites are performed by which a child is welcomed into the community just like Hinduism. The quoted text is as below:

“The True Guru has truly given a child. The long-lived one has been born to this destiny. He came to acquire a home in the womb, and his mother’s heart is so very glad. A son is born - a devotee of the Lord of the universe.”²³

---Guru Granth Sahib 396

Thus, it can be clearly stated from the texts cited from various Sacred Books of the above given major religions of our nation clearly states that Infanticide is neither a custom nor it

²⁰ Ramayana is a Sacred Sculpture of Hindus which tells the story of Lord Rama and his journey to win back his wife from Ravana after killing him.

²¹ Mahabharata is an epic written by the Sage Ved Vyasa which tells the story of the conflict between two groups of cousins, the Kauravas and the Pandavas over the throne of Hastinapur.

²² [BBC - Religions - Hinduism: Baby rites](#) available at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/ritesrituals/baby.shtml> (last visited on 26/01/2023)

²³ “Birth and naming ceremonies- Ways of Sikh living” available at: [Birth and naming ceremonies - Practices - AQA - GCSE Religious Studies Revision - AQA - BBC Bitesize](#) (last visited on 30/01/2023)

is appreciated as per any religion. Therefore, it is indeed imperative that those who commit such heinous crimes under the veil of religion or customs, should be subjected to strict legal punishment in order to uphold the principles of Justice and ensure safety and well-being of individuals.

II. Legal Provisions

Infanticide is a cruel and undetectable act of transgression that shocks and defies any sense of morality, justice, and good conscience and therefore, law has provided certain provisions under various legislations with which the government has been trying to not let the crime be a disease which engulf the society from deterring individuals to engage in such crimes and to ensure welfare of the society at large.

The Constitution enshrines various rights of a citizen along with the Directive Principles of State Policy which provides various provisions through the rights and protection of the child born. The various Articles includes **Article 14** stating **Right to Life** provides that the State shall not deny any person equality before law irrespective of their caste, sex, religion etc.²⁴ **Article 15 prohibits discrimination** wherein any such provision can be made by the State which is for women and children and “special provision” does not mean unequal treatment instead which is being established by law and is done for the development of the children in India.²⁵

The Directive principles of State policy under the **Article 39** talks about Certain principles to be followed by the State wherein **Article 39(e)** states that the health and strength of workers, men, women and the tender age of children should not be forced by economic necessity for entering avocations which are not suited as per their age or strength.²⁶

Article 39[1](f)- It states that children should be given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and that childhood remains protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment.²⁷

²⁴ The Constitution of India, 1949, Art. 14.

²⁵ The Constitution of India, 1949, Art. 15.

²⁶ The Constitution of India, 1949, Art. 39

²⁷ The Constitution of India, 1949, Art. 39

Article 45- It states that this provision is for providing early childhood care and education to children who are below the age of 6.²⁸

Article 51A(k)- It states that it is the duty of every citizen of India who is a parent or guardian to promote opportunities and provide education for his child who's between the age of 6 and 14 years as provided by the law.²⁹

All the above given Articles have either a direct or indirect relation with the cause of Infanticide and they are incorporated keeping in mind the menace.

Indian Penal Code also provides various sections under which it is a crime either to kill a child born, or any act which leads to its death or even concealing the body of the dead child is also a crime which is punishable under the law.

Infanticide is termed as a crime in **Section 315 of IPC** which states **Act done with intent to prevent child being born alive or to cause it to die after birth** wherein any such act is done with the intention of preventing the child to be born or causing it to die after birth and if such an act is not done in order to save the mother of the child then the person will be liable for the punishment which may extend to 10 years of imprisonment or with fine or both.³⁰ Moreover, under **Section 317 of IPC** which deals with **Exposure and abandonment of child under twelve years, by parent or person having care of it** wherein it is stated that the parents of a child under 12 years if abandoned the child in such a place which may harm the child will be intended for a punishment which may extend up to 7 years of imprisonment or with fine or both.

Not just this, the **Concealment of birth by disposing the dead body secretly** is also a crime under IPC, **Section 138** which states that intentionally secretly concealing the dead body of the child either before birth or after birth shall be liable for punishment which may extend to 2 years of imprisonment or with fine or both. Thus, if the crime is reported and the criminal is being held under trial then, the case offender would surely be punished.

²⁸ The Constitution of India, 1949, Art. 45.

²⁹ The Constitution of India, 1949, Art. 51A(k)

³⁰ IPC Section 315

But just the punishment is not enough as the reason for commitment of crime is way important to the fact which can further lead to not attempting such crimes in future.

III. Schemes by the Government to Prevent Infanticide

- **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971:** This Act provides for the termination of certain pregnancies which are registered by the Medical Practitioners and even for the matters which are somewhere connected via incidental thereto.³¹
- **Girl Child Protection Scheme, 1991:** This Act mainly aimed at preventing the Gender Discrimination that a girl faces everywhere no matter if it's a rural area or an urban area, by empowering them and protecting the rights of the girl child. It also ensures that the education of Girl child is at least up to intermediate level.³²
- **Baby Cradle Scheme, 1992:** It is a scheme which was launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu in Salem District with the motive of eradicating the practice of female infanticide and to save the girl child from the clutches of death.
- **Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994:** This Act is enacted by Parliament of India to stop female feticides and arrest the declining the sex ratio in India. It also banned Prenatal Sex Determination which was one of the main reasons of Infanticide.
- **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, 2015:** As the name itself says about the aim of this scheme which was launched on 22 January 2015 by our current Prime Minister Shri Narendra Damodar Das Modi at Panipat in Haryana for promoting gender equality and abolishing discrimination and elimination. To also provide education and enable their participation in girl child and bring child rights into focus by generating awareness and improving efficiency.³³
- **Balika Samridhhi Yojana:** In order to vanish the reason for killing girl child due to financial disability, the government has designed this scheme in order to provide

³¹ [MTP ACT, 1971](#) available at [| Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | GOI \(mohfw.gov.in\) last visited](#) (last visited on 30/01/2023)

³² Available at [Press Information Bureau \(pib.gov.in\)](#) (last visited on 31/01/2023)

³³ Available at [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao \(myscheme.gov.in\)](#) (last visited on 31/01/2023)

financial aid to the girl child along with their mothers who is below poverty line for improving their status in society along with the enrollment in schools.³⁴

- **CBSE Udaan Scheme:** This scheme is in consonance with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India which majorly focuses on increasing the number of enrolments of the girl child in engineering and other technical colleges all over the country.³⁵
- **LADLI Scheme of Haryana:** It is an initiative taken by the Haryana Government which provides an amount of Rs. 5000 annually for a continuous period of 5 years wherein a second girl-child is born on or after 20th August 2015. The money will be deposited in a Kisan Vikas patra and once the girl child attains the age of majority can release the same with the amount of interest.³⁶
- **Karnataka Bhagyashree Scheme:** It is an initiative taken by the Karnataka Government in order to promote the birth of girl child in families below poverty line. Herein, the health insurance is covered for a maximum of Rs. 25,000 annually to the girl child.³⁷

And several other schemes.

All the above-mentioned schemes have impacted on the sex ratio as well as the infanticide rate in India. Even some of the State Governments have strictly followed the rules and regulations especially in Tamil Nadu where the sex ratio has risen from 942/1000 in 2001 to 943/1000 in 2011 and now the Sex Ratio of India has now reached to 924 females per 1000 males which has further increased to 1020 (per 1000 males) as per the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey in the year 2019-2021.³⁸

³⁴ Available at [Balika Samridhi Yojana by the Ministry of Women and Child Development| National Portal of India](#) (last visited on 31/01/2023)

³⁵ Available at [UDAAN: A Program to give wings to girl students| National Portal of India](#) last visited on (31/01/2023)

³⁶ Available at [Ladli Social Security Allowance Scheme | Directorate of Social Justice & Empowerment, Haryana | India \(socialjusticehry.gov.in\)](#) last visited on (02/02/2023)

³⁷ Available at [How to Avail Karnataka Bhagyashree Scheme Benefits | Times of India \(indiatimes.com\)](#) last visited on (02/02/2023)

³⁸ Available at [Press Information Bureau \(pib.gov.in\)](#) (last visited on 02/02/2023)

Conclusion & Suggestions

As the roots of Infanticide run deep down to the history of not only India but World as well. But we have started fighting against this contemporary issue which is emerging and increasing the crime rate not just of illiterate people but also of literate ones. Government is also taking various initiatives for the same. Infanticide statistics for India are dubious as there is an increase in the pendency of the cases. Infanticide is carried out covertly in India in the veil of customs which is In order to receive a higher salary, hospitals and physicians also perform sex-selective abortions covertly. Infanticide and foeticide are practises that are frequently not disclosed but are still obvious from the demographic's long-standing imbalanced sex ratio. India is thus far from realizing its programme of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

It is a serious offense according to the Indian Penal Code, 1860, which has sections 312, 315, and 316 devoted to it. Additionally, laws were established in 1994 to forbid female infanticide although they were not effectively enforced so, the Female Infanticide Prevention Act of 1870, which was passed during the British era itself, makes it clear that killing a child, especially a female child, is a recognised crime that dates to British India. There must not be any violence in the family and the society must be aware of some basic legal rights as well as should be at least this much knowledgeable that they do not become criminals and culprits of the society.

Although the government has made several legislations and has provided various schemes not just the central government but state governments as well like Ladki Scheme of Haryana and others but still there is a lack in awareness of the schemes to the public until which the goal of the government cannot be accomplished. There is a need to work upon it more strictly especially in rural areas not via media of communications but by making them understand one-to one in an effective manner. This can be done by various volunteers, social workers and people working for the welfare of the society.

Some other steps can also be taken not just by the Government but also by Individuals, individual groups, NGOs in order to overcome and prevent the crime from happening in various ways which are mentioned below:

- By enforcing the law firmly, and implementing in a way where the criminal needs to think of the consequences as to what will happen to him after he commits such a crime! A strong message can be sent to the society that such acts of violence or harm will not be tolerated, regardless of the context in which they occur.
- Proposed policies like “Population policy” in the most populated state, Uttar Pradesh can add to the change where people with more than 2 kids will be deprived of certain benefits.
- Increase in awareness campaigns about hidden or concealed pregnancies among the adolescent and youth.
- Gynecologists, obstetricians, and birth giving staff should be educated enough to know and understand how the family is and what they are expecting. Also, if anything is done against the law then, it should be strictly notified to the police without undue delay.
- Women to have open conversations about their family’s history and previous illnesses or any kind of mental illness which would be identified in the process of giving birth to the child.
- Public Service messages by various social media should be made in order to create an impact on society.
- Basic understanding of Warning Signs and symptoms should be known to the mother.
- According to the main causes for infanticide we can help the society by organizing various free camps, seminars as well as can collaborate with NGO’s and can go to rural areas to tell and make them aware with their legal rights and responsibilities.
- Unless a woman is seen as precious instead of a valuable or a commodity to be given by her parents, to someone else’s infanticide will continue.
- Empowering and Educating women in order to make their own life decisions and make them dependent.

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