

# Empowerment of Women in India through Balancing Sex Ratio: A Logical Way

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## ABSTRACT

“Our mantra should be: son and daughter are equal.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi In India, there are about 51 births in a minute. At current population of India is 1,349,800,854 (1.34 billion) as of December 13, 2017 of which 697,037,161 (69.7 crore) is male and 652,763,692 (65.2 crore) is female and Sex Ratio is 945 females per 1000 males. It is commonly known fact that, India's population is more. Indian government was the first to introduce family planning officially in the world. India wanted to control population as its growth rate was high and problems of population explosion were sever. The population includes both male and female. In traditional India, it is believed that, male and female in the society are two eyes and two wheels of a cart. Unfortunately, because of some socio economic reasons the balance between male and female population has not been maintained. As the Indian society is male dominated, it has become male biased. In this paper attempt is made to highlight the issues related to imbalance in sex ratio. The paper aims at studying the government attempts to reduce sex ratio and empower women.

**Key Words:** Dominate, equality, explosion, family, population, traditional

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## I. INTRODUCTION

In India, there are about 51 births in a minute. At current population of India is 1,349,800,854 (1.34 billion) as of December 13, 2017 of which 697,037,161 (69.7 crore) is male and 652,763,692 (65.2 crore) is female and Sex Ratio is 945 females per 1000 males. It is commonly known fact that, India's population is more. Indian government was the first to introduce family planning officially in the world. India wanted to control population as its growth rate was high and problems of population explosion were sever. The population includes both male and female. In traditional India it is believed that, male and female in the society are two eyes and two wheels of a cart. Unfortunately, because of some socio economic reasons the balance between male and female population has not been maintained. As the Indian society is male dominated, it has become male biased. Whenever male or female child takes birth that will be net addition of lives in the society and sweet is distributed but, if male pedha (a kind of sweet) and if female gilebi (a kind of sweet). The discriminations begins from here. Females are not treated equally on par with males in families and in society. The treatment of boy always is better than a girl in most of the families. The toys of boys and girls are different. The gift items of boys and girls are also different. These things reveal that, there is discrimination among boys and girls. In rural areas boys get more chance of getting education than girls. Girls after certain age are not sent to schools and forced to limit their life to cooking in kitchens. The liberty of girls is limited and controlled because of the belief and consideration of girls as liability and boys as asset. The women are made as second grade citizen. In such a society, some time fortunately female children take birth because of the wish of the couple (parent) to have male child. Maintenance of equality in sex ratio is quite essential for healthy society. Though there is no life to man without woman and the sex ratio is at alarming level in India, the advanced medical techniques are used to detect the child in the womb. If the child is female and unwanted, the couple will go for Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP). Keeping this in mind, the government of India has been trying to prevent such kind of actions through legislative measures.

## II. CURRENT SCENARIO OF INDIA'S POPULATION

Current Population of India in 2017	1,349,800,854 (1.34 billion) as on December 13, 2017
Total Male Population in India	697,037,161 (69.7 crore)
Total No of Females in India	652,763,692 (65.2 crore)

Sex Ratio	All India	945 females per 1,000 males
	Kerala	1058 females per 1,000 males
	Pondicherry	1001 females per 1,000 males
	Chhattisgarh	990 females per 1,000 males
	Karnataka	968 females per 1,000 males
	Haryana	861 females per 1,000 males
Global Gender Gap Index ((2015)	Value	0.683 (2016)
	Rank	87 <sup>th</sup> out of 144
Literacy Rate Total	74.04 %	
Literacy Rate Male	82.14%	
Literacy Rate Female	65.46%	
Female over 25 with Secondary Education	35.3% (Male-61.4%)	
Women in Labour Force	28% (Male- 82%)	
Highest Literacy Rate in India	Kerala	93.9%
	Lakshadweep	92.3%
	Mizoram	91.6%
Maternal Mortality (Per 100,000)	174	
Age structure		
0 to 25 years	50% of India's current population	
sex ratio of children aged 0-6 was	927 girls per 1000 boys (2001 Census)	
	918 girls per 1,000 boys in (2011 Census)	
India ranking among 195 countries	41 (2012)	
Currently, there are about 51 births in India in a minut		

Source: Web pages

The above table shows the population scenario of India. In India, there are about 51 births in a minut. Out of 50 percent of current population the age group of 0-25 years contains. At current population of India is 1,349,800,854 (1.34 billion) as of December 13, 2017 of which 697,037,161 (69.7 crore) is male and 652,763,692 (65.2 crore) is female and Sex Ratio is 945 females per 1000 males. The sex ratio is highest in Kerala i.e 1058 females per 1000 males, in Pondicherry 1001 females for 1000 and in Chhattisgarh for 1,000 males 990 females and this ratio is lowest in Haryana i.e 861 females per 1000 males. The sex ratio is ideal or good in Pondicherry and is unsatisfactory all over the nation. The total literacy rate in India is 74.04 percent. Male literacy rate in India is 82.14 percent and female is just 65.46 percent. In Kerala, the literacy rate is 93.9 percent, in Lakshadweep 92.3 percent and Mizoram has 91.6 percent.

To equalize educational opportunities and eliminate gender disparities, the Indian government has implemented social programmes like “Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan” (Education for Everyone) which are promoting girls' education, but these initiatives will take time to bring their entire effect.

Except some of the communities such as Nairs of Kerala, some Maratha families, and Bengali families have matriarchal system where oldest woman heads the family rather than man. on the other hand, many Indian women face unfairness, bias and discrimination during different stages of their life. The discrimination of woman starts even before birth. Before birth, while in the womb the girl child if detected has less chances of taking birth, resulting in birth of more male children than female children which leads to imbalanced sex ratio. Prenatal sex discrimination was legally banned in 1996. Annually, total 11 million abortions take place and around 20,000 women die every year due to abortion related complications.

### III. WOMAN EMPOWERMENT

Empowering the women to take their own decisions for their personal dependent is women empowerment. It is to make them independent in all respects. It is to bring equality in the society for both male and female in all areas. In other words strengthening women from all dimensions.

### IV. NEED FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN

Since olden days women and girl children are exploited. In modern days also woman exploitation is not stopped. Empowerment of women is very much needed to make the bright future of the family, society and country The extent, the incidence, the mode of exploitation is changed. In these days the victimization is may be due to family reasons or society reasons or personal reasons. Whatever may be the reason the victim is the girl or woman.

## **V. CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION AND GOVERNMENT ACTION**

The Constitution of India has made legal provision to grant equality to women in the society in all fields alike male. According to the provisions of Indian constitution, the Department of Women and Child Development looks after the proper development of the women and child in India.

Many programmes like International Women's Day, etc. are run by the government in order to bring consciousness in the society about the rights and values of the women. National Mission for the Empowerment of women (NMEW) has been launched by the Government of India. Due to which, both the ratio of female sex and female literacy has increased in 2011. India needs to take some advanced steps to improve the position of women in the society through providing proper health, higher education and economic participation. According to the Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI), empowerment of women requires to take momentum in right direction. In order to eliminate bad practices of gender discrimination against women, the government of India, in recent days has implemented various legal rights provided by the constitution. Increasing awareness about the women rights in the modern society resulted in the increasing number of self-help groups, NGOs, etc. attempting for women empowerment directly and indirectly. In the modern society, women have become more open minded and breaking the social barricades in order to achieve their rights in variety of dimensions even after crimes are going side by side.

## **VI. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT WOMEN EXPLOITATION**

The government of India has passed multi dimensional Acts in order to empower women with their legal rights and protect women against the exploitation. They are as follows

- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act-1956
- Maternity Benefit Act-1961
- Dowry Prohibition Act-1961
- Medical termination of Pregnancy Act-1971
- Equal Remuneration Act-1976
- Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act-1987
- Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act-1994
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act-2006
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Protection and) Act-2013 etc.,

## **VII. SUKANYA SAMRIDDI YOJANA**

In India, the girl child faces many challenges after her birth which will become obstacles for the growth and development. The Indian government, in order to eliminate gender inequality and achieve equality and empowering the girl child, the government has launched the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015, the government of India led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign. The part of this, the Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme is offered in Post Office and in authorized banks. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative of the Indian government wants to check the gender-based elimination of the girl child, and guarantee the survival, protection, education and participation of girls in India. This scheme is introduced by the government with a view to ensure the welfare of the girl child by promoting regular saving of money by her parent/legal guardian in an account in the name of the girl child.

## **VIII. BENEFITS OF THE SUKANYA SAMRIDDI ACCOUNT SCHEME**

- Promotes the economic empowerment of the girl child as regular savings of money provides certain security on her attaining adulthood
- The account will be operated by parent or guardian till the girl attains 10 years and may be girl after
- The investment in this account is tax free (both principal and interest)
- The account will be matured after 21 years of its opening
- If the girl after 18 years of age gets married, the account may be allowed pre-matured closure
- The annual floating interest rate for the Sukanya Samridhi Account is 8.4 percent from 1-4-2017
- Interest will be compounded annually
- Girl after attaining 18 years of age partial or a maximum of 50 percent of the balance may be withdrawn for meeting higher education expenses
- Interest will be paid continuously as specified for the scheme from time to time, if the account not closed after its maturity

### **IX. NEGATIVE FACETS OF SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI ACCOUNT SCHEME**

- The very poor and illiterate people will not be able to understand and go for such kind of saving schemes for their girl children
- It is difficult to open and maintain account for BPL families
- The rate of interest is floating means no expectation of fixed income

### **CONCLUSION**

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