

# **HARYANA MEDIA CONSULTATION ON FEMALE FOETICIDE**

**KARNAL , MARCH 28-29 , HARYANA**

**SUPPORTED BY  
UNFPA**

**SHAKTI VAHINI  
NATIONAL MEDIA COALITION**

The consultation began with the inauguration session in the morning, **conveyed by Executive Director Shakti Vahini Mr. Ravi Kant.**

Ravi Kant welcomed the entire guest and participants to the consultation and detailed about the objectives of the consultation. He explained that the **States of Haryana , Punjab, are experiencing low sex ratio** problem since the many years.

He said that Shakti Vahini has been working since the many years on the issue of Trafficking of Women for forced marriages in the region . For the past few years, media and voluntary organisations have increasingly been reporting about the increasing number of girls getting sold & being trafficked from other far away and poverty ridden states to Haryana, Punjab and Delhi region. Assam, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orrisa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh & Himanchal Pradesh are such prime states from where the trafficking in guise of migration for coerced or forceful marriage, domestic servants and agricultural labour is taking place and the maximum numbers of such girls come from Assam, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

A study conducted in 2003 by Shakti Vahini confirmed that the trend was on the increase and with the census reporting a much lower child sex ratio the situation will worsen. Every year, thousands of young women and girls in northern India are lured or sold into involuntary marriage. They are bartered at prices that vary depending on their age, beauty and virginity, and exploited under conditions that amounts to a modern form of slavery.

The study clearly came out with a grim scenario and all linkages pointed to the low sex ratio in Haryana

and Punjab as the reason on the increase of Trafficking in the region.

Any village the teams of Shakti Vahini visited in the Faridabad, Hissar, Rewari, Karnal, Rohtak, Kurukshetra of Haryana and Mansa, Nawashehr, Jalandhar, Gurdaspur, Bhatinda of Punjab, there are women from the Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orrisa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Himanchal Pradesh who have been lured through deceit for a better living or have been bought through the traffickers or sold by their poor parents. Although trafficking in women and girls has become a lucrative and expanding trade in these regions, it routinely escapes effective administrative and social sanctions and the general response is to out rightly deny the existence of any such problem. Only after a persistent effort for years made by the Shakti Vahini, the local as well as national print and electronic media and the interventions made by judicial bodies such as NHRC and State Human Right Commissions, the problem has been accepted by the governments and yet all the attempts being made by government and administrative agencies are either in a way to protect the committers of the crime or to not disturb the existing so called peaceful atmosphere due to fear of giving rise to a serious law and order problem as the number of trafficked victim in the states of Haryana and Punjab is enormous.



*(The Chief Guest Shri V N Rai ,ADGP Haryana Police speaking at the Consultation on Female Foeticide)*

While the magnitude of the problem of **trafficking into coerced marriage and labour exploitation is enormous in the area and depends upon the various socio-economic, political and cultural factors** such as family and community hierarchies, cultural, traditions and values that encourage gender discrimination and a disregard for children's rights, in Haryana and its surrounding areas in Punjab, the buying of women for marriage is directly fueled by and result of adverse sex ratio. The widespread unemployment especially in Haryana and the discriminated status of women in above states have only added to the problem.

In the economically prosperous 'Doaba' region of Punjab including Nawashehr, the problem of **trafficking and exploitation is equally grave and the magnitude here is comparatively greater in number, but though here too girls are being trafficked into coerced marriage**, the major purpose behind the cause here in the region, is altogether different from that in the State of Haryana and districts of Punjab adjoining Haryana.

As the whole process of this bridal migration is increasingly gaining momentum the sale and trafficking aspects involved in it needs immediate attention. The shortage of brides in villages and towns of Haryana and Punjab is being addressed by buying and trafficking of women from distant and poverty-ridden states like Assam, West Bengal Jharkhand, Bihar and Orrisa.

Shakti Vahini has come across women from Bangladesh and we estimate that most villages in Haryana and Punjab now have a handful of women brought in from other states. Many of these "imported" women are treated as slaves, subjected to sexual and physical abuse. If the under 6 years sex ratio data from 'Census of India 2001' is any indication the importation trend will increase manifolds in coming years and more and more youths will be buying a bride for them selves.

Since the issue of **Trafficking and Low sex Ratio** is linked to each other Shakti Vahini decided to also work on the root cause of Female Foeticide. The problem of Female Foeticide can be fought by two ways and they are strict implementation of Law and Changing people perception toward women by doing positive stories on the girl Child. In Haryana and Punjab NGOs and media need to join hands to educate the general population on the issue which threatens to change the social Fabric of Haryana and Punjab. This consultation was proposed at bringing together the vernacular media person to increase the rights based reporting on the issue



*(Shri S C Raina , Professor Campus Law Centre Speaking at The Consultation)*

In the ***Inaugural Address Shri SC Raina , Professor of the Faculty of Law*** mentioned that the Female Foeticide problem was also due to lax implementation of the PCPNDT Act. He said that the Act provides for the “regulation of the use of prenatal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting genetic or metabolic disorders, chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of misuse of such techniques for the purpose of prenatal sex determination leading to female foeticide and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.” Except under certain specific conditions, no individual or genetic counseling center or genetic laboratory or genetic clinic shall conduct or allow the conduct in its facility of, pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultra-sonography for the purpose of determining the sex of the fetus; and “no person conducting prenatal diagnostic procedures shall communicate to the pregnant women concerned or her relatives the sex of the foetus by words, signs or in any other manner.” The Act provides for the constitution of a ***Central Supervisory Board*** (whose function is mainly advisory) and for the appointment of an ***Appropriate Authorities*** (AAs) in States and Union Territories (to enforce the law and penalize defaulters) and ***Advisory Committee’s*** (ACs) to aid and advise the AAs. In India, the policy environment is supportive of the reproductive choices of women and men. The medical termination of pregnancy is legal. The ***Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act*** (1971) allows for induced abortion in instances where pregnancy carries the risk of grave injury to a women’s physical and/or mental health, endangers her life or when it is a result of contraceptive failure or rape.

He said that to combat the crime of Female Foeticide the law needs to be implemented and the people

responsible for it should be prosecuted. He said that Media Persons and the law enforcement should join hands to fight this social crime.

**Welcoming the Guests , Participants and the Resource Persons Shri Farrokh of UNFPA** said that UNFPA was continuing a campaign on the stabilization of the sex ratio since the last many years. He said that one of the focus strategies of UNFPA was Media Advocacy and sensitization of Journalists to carry sensitive reportings. He felt that the vernacular media had a much larger role to play in such social campaigns as they had a far reach , penetrating all the remote rural places also. He said that if the Media could take up such issues in a big way it would be very helpful for social activists who have been carrying out such campaigns for many years. He said that Foeticide was an issue which cannot be tackled only by the strict implementation of the law but it also required a mass peoples movements to remove the various patriarchal values imbibed since centuries. Today he said that any where you see women are taking a lead role and are in no way inferior to men and this message should reach the millions of homes in India . The media needs to project the positive image of the girl Child. He said that all stakeholders should join hands and join this movement. Finally he thanked Shakti Vahini and the National Media Coalition in organizing this consultation and wished the consultation a success.

**Shri Jai Shankar Gupta of the Dainik Hindustan** welcomed all the participants on behalf of the National Media Coalition. He said that the National Media Coalition is committed to Rights Based Reporting and today it is a large group of Journalists spread across India who are committed to do developmental Stories.

He said that the Problem of Foeticide has become a major problem across North India. He said that one of the important Ramifications of the Foeticide issue has been the Trafficking of Women and Children.

He discussed at large the question of Media importance to developmental stories and how stories of sensational nature is given priority . He said wrongful perceptions and denial of problems need to be countered through the media. Media campaigns to instigate the questioning of gender roles and gender discrimination and to project positive images of partnerships between women and men must be put into practice. To sensitise citizens in the plight of women and child victims and to change social attitudes toward the former, advocacy and information dissemination must happen through the media.



*(Shri Jay Shankar Gupta speaking at The Haryana Media Consultation on Female Foeticide)*

### **Points of Consideration for Rights-Based Reportage**

In telling the story, it is important for reporters to represent the best interest of survivors, making sure to include their voice. Narrating the incidents alone is

not sufficient enough, as this only removes the focus from the factors leading to trafficking and VAW. In order to expose the root causes of trafficking and VAW, particular attention must be paid to these factors of vulnerabilities. Additionally, the role of authorities and the steps they have taken in reducing the factors of vulnerabilities, both the positive and negative, should be highlighted.

Stories must work to promote gender equity not only by being careful with words and gender representation, but also by creating a demand for progressive supportive, rehabilitative structures and services. Stories should also work to help the investigating and supporting agencies in an effort to move them to take further action.

The presentation of sexual violence/abuse/ exploitation as a serious violation of human rights- it is not just a crime. If graphic details must be related or shown, they must relate to the story and be necessary, otherwise they are not needed. Stories are intended to increase public awareness and suggest possible course of actions. The story must help the community at large, and ways in which to deal with the problem must be identified.

The word usage within a story must be sensitive and politically correct and must work to increase the public's understanding of the complex gender and power dynamics. Precaution must be taken not to promote stereotypes or prejudices and stories must not demean, insult, stigmatise or degrade victims.

### **Don'ts**

- Readers or viewers must not be offended.
- Victims must not be re-victimised or criminalised

- Stories must not be sensationalised
- Stories should expose but not compound the situation
- Criminals must not be glamorised
- Stories should not cater to prurient interests

### Image Selection

The images selected must have a rational connection with the content of the story and must not reveal the identity of the survivor. Images must not be demeaning or degrading to survivors and neither should they be obscene, lascivious or sexual.

The tone of print and broad cast must raise concern over the issue and must retain a serious mood and not lighten the gravity of the issue. In this context he questioned how satellite channels in order to get high TRPs sensationalise the Matter.

The information given must be accurate and must not add confusion to the facts or issues at hand. Inaccuracy negatively impacts the public's faith in the media as an institution. It should be remembered that reporting on crime *is* important, for it gives society an overall view of the criminal justice system. However, there is a need to balance the legal right to publish/ broadcast with the ethical responsibility to do so judiciously and meaningfully. For this to be, journalists and reporters must be kept up to date with the legal provisions pertinent to the issues of concern. Furthermore, coverage must be done in a timely and sensitive manner, appreciative of the needs of development. Moreover, there should be follow up stories on cases until justice is met and perpetrators are punished.

It is important for all stakeholders to advocate for the removal of stigma. Highlighting the positive work NGOs have done contributes to the expansion of the NGO network, which brings in more support and builds upon their capacity as an organisation. This further enables NGOs to help government agencies in the process of formulating and implementing policy. Moreover, this type of coverage motivates other to participate and do their part against exploitation.

The **Chief Guest, ADGP Haryana Police (Police Academy) , Dr. V. N. Rai** addressed the workshop and interacted with the participants from the media, on the questions/ issues regarding sensitivity and understanding of the gender dimensions of society.

He provided the participants with a compact questionnaire and discussed and divulged on wide range of issues related to gender discrimination/violence on the basis of the response of the participants. He expressed his surprise that the journalist majority of whom belong to vernacular press and have very strong impact and effect upon the local population were equally prejudiced/biased and did not fare any better than the police forces generally considered to be lacking in their sensitivity and understanding of the gender issues.

Through his questions given below he touched the issues and beliefs deeply ingrained in patriarchal society:-

1. Woman is the greatest enemy of a Woman. Do you agree?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c)  
Do not know

2. Can a girl protect herself in manner similar to a boy?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
3. A girl is safe in her home/family/vicinity and becomes unsafe outside.  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
4. A woman has to face much more the conditions of labour exploitation in comparison to sexual exploitation?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
5. The custom of 'Kanyadan' considering a girl to be 'others property' in her parents home, is right?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
6. Since a girl has a share in her matrimonial home, is there a need to give a share in parent's property?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
7. Girls have had to often face molestation or rape because of that they do not wear proper dresses?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
8. The honour of the family will be compromised if some untoward occurs with the girl?
9. Should every thing be discussed with a girl in the family, in the same manner as it is done with a boy?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
10. God itself has made woman weaker than man?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
11. Deterioration in sex ratio also worsens law and order and crimes situation?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
12. Will the sex ratio improve, if female foeticide stops?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
13. Is womens' life incomplete without men?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
14. Is media promoting rotten values related to women?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know
15. Are the laws related to women being misused?  
a) Yes                      b) No                      c) Do not know

He stressed on the generally prevalent misconception that woman herself is the biggest enemy of woman and highlight through the responses received from the participants that how even in media people believe it to be true and how they do not ever bother to see behind the scene and are unable to see the patriarchal forces playing role behind this apparent misconception. Similarly he cleared the misconception that girl can not protect herself like a boy as the god herself has created her weak. He explained that its not that woman by herself is unsafe outside the home or family or her vicinity rather it's the men who commit wrongful and criminal acts against her at every given opportunity and make the outer world unsafe for her and then blame the girl or her dress sense for inviting the criminal acts like molestation and rape against herself.

He claimed that it's the myth created by men to reinforce the patriarchal forces upon the women and to subjugate them as lesser being or as weaker sex incapable of protecting itself. He said that clothes or dresses had nothing to do with the molestation or rape rather it is the dominance of male through use of brutal force and animal instinct that makes women victim of sexual crime and an object of men's lust and desires. We never hear a rape happening in places like swimming pools or at sea beaches where women generally go or are found in minimum clothes rather most of the cases of molestation or rapes occur with veiled women who wear 'burka' or long 'ghunghat'.

Sharing his experiences in dealing with crimes and some widely reported cases in media about continued sexual abuse/ exploitation wherein the victim was forced by circumstances to bear in silence until the crime or the wrongful act of abuser or exploiter got exposed by incident; he questioned why a girl of tender age who even at the slightest of hurt tells it to her parents, fail to tell such exploitation to her parents? Divulging upon the responses received he said that it's the parents themselves who silence the voice of girls by attaching the burden of honour of family with them. We do not consider it proper to discuss even the basic questions of life, of sexuality, of human anatomy or of physical needs and desires with them and thereby kill the natural human expression of girls making them akin to dumb creatures.

We treat girls unequal and different from boys in rights and discriminate against them in every sphere of life. We don't consider women capable of self protection and self sustenance and force protection and sustenance upon them without even caring to ask them that whether they really need it or are willing to accept it? We impose upon them a myth that womens' life is incomplete without men and they need to depend upon men in each and every sphere and stage of their life. We do not consider women individuals on their own right and make them mere tools for fulfilling one or other objectives of the family or society. We do not consider them worthy having rights or property and therefore we do not want to give share in property to our own daughter rather they themselves are believed to be property belonging to others and burden upon family to be got rid of by performance of 'Kanyadan' and payment of



dowry. By believing so we make her weak, dependent upon others and helpless who can not resist any wrong committed against her for she had no home of her own or no means to sustain herself. She is left with no other option except to bear in silence, if she is harassed or ill-treated in her matrimonial home. She is not welcome back even in her parental home for we do not want to give her share in her parent's property and after making her helpless we leave her alone to bear and die. Tied by our beliefs and honour we wait for her funeral but do not accept her back in her paternal home or give her share in property of her parents. We attach too much importance to a girl's sexuality and have framed rules and norms wherein we gag human aspect of her individuality and change her into a mechanical device objectify her and commoditize her and exploit her. A woman has to face much more the conditions of labour exploitation in comparison to sexual exploitation but her contribution remains unrecognized and she gains nothing from it. With her hard toil and labour she sustains the family but herself remains dependent and helpless.

Deterioration in sex ratio is reflection of the position of woman in our society and it does not come cheap. Society pays heavily in terms of worsening law and order and increase in crimes. Sex ratio will not improve by mere stopping of female foeticide. Female foeticide is mere a aspect of the entire problem and larger questions; what is the place of a woman in our society? What are her rights?

A large section of Media whether print or electronic too has engaged itself in promoting rotten values related to women. Today we see

increased presence and visibility of women both outside the homes and in media. Her visibility has increased. But had her situation in society also improved? Some times we read in media stories related to women as landmarks but do we ever try to see the forces/ factors behind such landmarks? Do we consciously promote them? Had it help in changing our opinions? Until and unless we change our views, the manner in which we see our woman, thing will not change much. The scenario is not entirely bleak. We can see the changes even in terminology used by media when they write/report with regard to women. These changes also reflect the direction in which we need to move ahead; from 'Fallen' to 'Public Opinion'/ 'Mass enlightenment' to 'Empowerment'. Empowerment is an important word and tool today. It is important to empower woman on her own right as an independent human being capable of protecting herself, owing and sharing equal rights with males whether it be sexual rights or property rights.

Despite so much less rights and very few laws to adequately address the concern, it is often that we see media making noise for laws related to women being misused. Media is not free from biases of general population. Media writes stories that reinforce the stereotypes and consciously or unconsciously wrongly put blame on woman, and victimize her. He shared few instances of print media reporting- " Police ne rangreliyan manate pakda", what do we want to say here? What do we mean by "Rangreliyan", when it is between two willing adults? What have police to do with it? How it becomes a report for media? "Ladki Bhag gayee" or "ladki bhaga le gaya", is she not human? Does she not has desires or will? Is she

a mere object? “Majnu ke raste”, can we never respect love or relationships? Or we always want to govern them? Do we ever think before degrading people for even their most natural desires? “Tilted lover throws acid”, how and when it can be an act of love or of a lover? Who is the criminal then? What are we glorifying? “bhai ne avaidh sambandhon ke chalet bahen ko maut ke ghat utara”, What is illegal here, the act of the sister or the act of the brother? “nirdhan ladkiyon ka samoochik vivah”, is that the only objective of a life of girl? Is that our only concern for women? “Ladkiyon ko jalaoge to dulhan kahan se laoge?”, is that the only worth of a woman? “ladki ne dahej lolup ko bhaga diya”, what was the role of her parents? How could they settle her relation with such person and let the things move to this extent? Did the girl’s likes/dislikes mattered before this incident? Was she asked before her marriage being finalized?

The likes or dislikes of women or the view/opinion hardly ever matters for us. We are so much patterned and biased against the women that even if we try a lot we can not successfully speak in neutral language even for a day. We only see women as mere objects. Voices were being raised that there is a danger of 2 lakhs women being forced into prostitution due to closure of dance bars. It raises very pertinent questions regarding our attitude and concerns. Firstly what was the reason for closure of dance bars? As if these women were already not being forced into prostitution and subjected to exploitation? Secondly, our society in a minute can absorb 2 lakhs women as prostitutes! Who is the society? Is there any other area in which we can absorb

such a huge number of women in one stroke? Is that the only option?



*(Shri Kamal Pandey , Advocate Supreme Court speaking at the Haryana Media Consultation)*

**Shri Kamal Pandey** , Advocate Supreme Court spoke about the **PCPNDT Act** Salient Features

### **Sex Determination and Administrative/ Legal Action**

- Origin of prenatal sex determination with amniocentesis in 1974.
- Technique to diagnose chromosomal abnormalities was utilized to “diagnose” females who could subsequently be aborted.
- 1979, there was a ban on sex determinations in all government institutions.
- However, private clinics performing sex determination tests and procedures started emerging and spreading all over Northern and Western India.
- First Clinic came up Amritsar.

- Ultra-sound machines became available in the early '80s and were used by these clinics to detect fetal sex.
- Non-invasive and instant method led to popularity.
- In the '80s and '90s clinics advertised blatantly.
- Sharp decrease in Sex ratio
- In 1988 after intense lobbying Maharashtra legislated to regulate the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques
- In 1994 the *Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act* (PNDT Act) was enacted by centre.
- The law came into operation on January 1, 1996.
- Rules were framed under the Act in 1996 and 1998.
- Effect of the law - blatant advertising stopped.

#### **Objectives of PNDT Act 1994**

- Prohibit misuse of PNDT for determination of sex of foetus, leading to female foeticide
- Prohibit advertisement of PNDT for detection or determination of sex
- Permission and Regulation of the use of PNDT for the purpose of detection of specific genetic abnormalities or disorders
- Permitting the use of such techniques only under certain conditions by the registered institutions
- Punishment for violation

However, the enforcement of the Act was not effective and in Feb. 2000 a PIL (CEHAT & Ors Vs Union of India & Ors) was filed in Supreme Court

#### **The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act 1994.**

- The amended Act came into force with effect from January 2003 and the Rules from Feb. 2003.
- The Act prohibits sex selection & sex determination in any manner whether pre or after the conception

**Conceptus-** any product of conception at any stage of development from fertilisation until birth including extra embryonic membranes as well as the embryo or foetus.

**Embryo:-** a developing human organism after fertilisation till the end of 8 weeks (56 days).

**Foetus:-** human organism during the period of its development beginning on the 57th day following fertilisation or creation and ending at birth. (excluding any time when dev. has been suspended)

**Registration** after enquiry by Appropriate Authority and Advice of Advisory Committee

**Certificate of Registration** – Non transferable and must mention the number of ultra sound Machines including the portable ones.

Registration Suspended or canceled by AA

- **Sec. 3A. Prohibition of Sex selection:-** No person, including a specialist or a team of

specialist in the field of infertility, shall conduct or cause to be conducted or aid in conduction by himself or by any other person, sex selection on a woman or a man or on both or on any tissue, embryo, conceptus, fluid or gametes derived from either or both of them.

- **Sec 3B. Prohibition on sale of ultrasound machine**, etc., to persons, laboratories, clinics, etc., not registered under the Act:- No person shall sell any ultrasound machine or imaging machine or scanner or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of foetus to any Genetic Counseling Centre, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic clinic or any other person not registered under the Act.
- **Sec 4 (4).** No person including a relative or husband of the pregnant woman shall seek or encourage the conduct of any pre-natal diagnostic techniques on her except for the purpose specified in clause (2)
  - Chromosomal Abnormalities
  - Genetic Metabolic disorders
  - Haemoglobinopathies
  - Sex-linked genetic diseases
  - Congenital Anomalies
  - Any other abnormalities or disease specified by Central Supervisory Board
- **Sec 4 (5).** No person including a relative or husband of a woman shall seek or encourage the conduct of any sex selection technique on her or him or both.

- **Sec 5 (2).** Prohibition of communicating the sex of foetus:- No person including the person conducting pre natal diagnostic procedures shall communicate to the pregnant woman concerned or her relatives or any other person the sex of the foetus by words, signs or in any other manner.

- **Sec 6.** Determination of sex prohibited:- On and from the commencement of this Act,--

(a) no Genetic Counseling Centre or Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic shall conduct or cause to be conducted in its Centre, Laboratory or Clinic, pre-natal diagnostic techniques

(b) no person shall conduct or cause to be conducted any pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultrasonography for the purpose of determining the sex of a foetus.

(c) No person shall, by whatever means, cause or allow to be caused selection of sex before or after conception

**Sec 22. Prohibition of advertisement** relating to pre-conception and pre-natal determination of sex techniques including ultrasonography, for the purpose of determining the sex of a foetus.

When the person qualified is satisfied and records reason in writing that any of the following conditions are fulfilled-

1. Age of pregnant woman is above 35 yrs.
2. Had undergone 2 or more spontaneous abortions or foetal loss

3. Had been exposed to potentially teratogenic agents such as drugs, radiation, infection or chemicals;
4. has a family history of mental retardation or physical deformities such as spasticity or any other genetic disease;
5. any other condition as may be specified by the Central Supervisory Board;

### **What is necessary when PNDT conducted?**

- Record: Person conducting to keep record in clinic in prescribed form.
- Explained: side & after affect to pregnant Woman
- Written Consent: In prescribed form in language which she understands
- Copy of written consent given to pregnant Woman
- Central Supervisory Board: & (State & UT Supervisory Boards)

### **Enforcement/ Implementing structure**

Chairman - Minister in charge of dept. of Family welfare

Vice Chairman – Secretary in charge of dept. of Family welfare

#### **Functions. –**

- (i) to advise the Government on policy matters relating to use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques; sex selection tech and their misuse
- (ii) to review and monitor implementation of the Act and the rules made there under

and recommend changes in the said Act and rules to the Central Government;

- (iii) to create public awareness against the practice of pre conception sex selection and pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide;
- (iv) to lay down code of conduct to be observed by persons working at Genetic Counselling Centres, Genetic Laboratories and Genetic Clinics;
- (v) To oversee the performance of various bodies constituted under the Act and take appropriate steps to ensure its proper and effective implementation .

### **Appropriate Authorities (Central, State, District & Sub district)**

#### **Function:**

- to grant, suspend or cancel registration
- to enforce standards prescribed for the Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory and Genetic Clinic;
- to investigate complaints of breach of the provisions of this Act/rules
- To take the complaints to courts
- To take appropriate legal action To create public awareness
- To supervise the implementation of acts and rules
- To recommend to Boards changes in rules

- To take action on recommendation of Advisory Committee for suspension and cancellation of registration

### **Advisory Committee: for each Appropriate Authority**

**Function:** to aid and advise the Appropriate Authority in the discharge of its functions,



*(Dr Ms Avinash Sharma DGHS Haryana speaking at the Haryana Media Consultation)*

### **Implementation of PNDT Act - 1994 in Haryana Presentation by Dr Avinash Sharma**

The declining female /male ratio in the State is a cause of concern. As per figures of Census 2001, the sex ratio in the state of Haryana is lowest among all the states except UTs (Delhi, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)' and has declined from 865 females/1000 males in 1991 to 861 females/1000 males in 2001. Though the national figure has improved from 927 females /1000 males in 1991 to 933 in 2001.

Sr No.	District	Sex Ratio	0-6 Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio at Birth Dec 2005 as per CRS	Sex Ratio at Birth Dec 2006 as per CRS
1	Panchkula	823	829	856	887
2	Panipat	830	809	862	867
3	Faridabad	839	850	869	870
4	Sonepat	839	788	790	831
5	Rohtak	847	799	820	867
6	Jhajjar	848	801	799	797
7	Hissar	852	832	834	902
8	Jind	853	818	856	889
9	Kaithal	854	791	830	896
10	Yamunana gar	863	806	830	876
11	Karnal	864	809	811	863
12	Kurukshetra	866	771	781	804
13	Ambala	869	782	790	809
14	Gurgaon	874	858	824	826
15	Bhiwani	880	841	812	861
16	Sirsa	882	817	856	891
17	Fatehabad	886	828	873	891
18	Rewari	901	811	862	797
19	Mohinder garh	919	818	768	785
		861	819	823	857

The census 2001 further reveals that situation is worse in respect of child population in the age group of 0-6 years in Haryana where it is 819 and is lowest only more than the state of Punjab (793).

Out of the 10 districts in the country with lowest female-male sex ratio, 2 districts fall in the state of Haryana and rest in the state of Punjab. These districts are Kurukshetra (771) and Ambala (782) in Haryana and Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Kapurthala, Gurdaspur, Bhatinda, Mansa, Amritsar, Sangrur in Punjab.

There is no denying the fact that sex ratio in Haryana has always been low and varied from 861 (Census 2001) to 870 (Census 1981). In Haryana Census wise sex ratio has been:

Census Year	State Sex Ratio	District Below Sex Average
1971	867	Panchkula, Faridabad, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Sirsa & Yamunanagar (10 District)
1981	870	Panchkula, Faridabad, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Panipat, Rohtak, Sonapat & Yamunanagar (10 District)
1991	865	Panchkula, Faridabad, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Panipat, Rohtak, Jhajjar & Sonapat (9 District)
2001	861	Panchkula, Faridabad, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal, Panipat, Rohtak, Jhajjar & Sonapat (9 District)

The above table reveals that

- 2001 census sex ratio is lowest since Haryana came into existence in 1966 .

- 9 -10 districts have always been below the State average .
- Six districts namely Panchkula, Faridabad, Hisar, Jind, Kaithal and Panipat have their sex ratio below the State average in all the census reports since 1971.

Pre-natal sex determination and selective female foeticide is a Social evil and requires universal condemnation. It is as a result of advanced modern technology being misused by technologists in collusion with society and individuals due to various religious beliefs, social and economic reasons. It is because of strong son preference, dowry, gender bias, neglect of girl child etc. in the community that the female/male ratio imbalance has resulted over a period of time.

#### **Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) ACT-1994 and Amendment Act - 2002.**

The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994 has also been enacted in the state of Haryana and came into operation in Feb. 1996. This Act has been amended in 2002 and Rules have also been amended w.e.f. 14.02.2003. This Act may be called the "Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Amendment Act- 2002.

Modern technology is being misused to detect sex of the foetus because of strong preference for son. This is due to various religious beliefs, social and economic reasons. Prenatal sex determination and selective female foeticide is a Social evil and requires multipronged strategy and holistic approach.

Besides this, the State Govt. has also taken the following measures to implement the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act - 2002 and check pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide: -

1. The State has also constituted a Multi-member State Appropriate Authority under the Chairpersonship of Director General Health Services, Haryana besides Joint Legal Remembrancer, Law Department and Deputy Director, Women & Child Development, Haryana as its members.
2. Civil Surgeons of all the districts have also been appointed as District Appropriate Authorities for effective implementation of the Act.
3. State Supervisory Board under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Health Minister, Haryana has been constituted to monitor the implementation of this Act.
4. State Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Head of the department of Gynae & Obstetrician department, Rohtak consisting of Head of Paediatrician department, Medical Geneticist, Deputy Legal Remembrance, Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, Secretary, State Council for Child Welfare & Smt. Prem Sharma, Social worker as members and State MCR Officer as Member Secretary.
5. District Advisory Committees with the District Family Welfare Officer as Chairman and District Immunization Officer, A Gynaecologist, Paediatrician and 3 women social worker including Secretary District Red Cross Society as members have also

been constituted in the districts.

6. A State Task Force under the Chairmanship of State Appropriate Authority has been constituted consisting of a team of dedicated officers of the department. Apart from conducting raids / inspection of ultrasound centres to curb the illegal activities, this task force is also doing intelligence work in the State, which is followed by the raids. This task force is doing its work with the help of local health officials, media persons, NGOs and police.

In order to keep a check the misuse of ultrasound machines, the following steps have been / are being taken: -

1. A survey of all bodies/persons using ultrasound machines has been completed and continuing. **912 Ultrasound Clinics/ Genetic Clinics** (Annexure - 5) & 66 Genetic Counseling centres under the PNDT Act have so far been registered with various District Appropriate Authorities.
2. **46 ultrasound machines** have been registered in Govt. Sector.
3. **94 ultrasound machines have been seized and sealed** by respective District Appropriate Authorities on account of being unregistered/ unserviceable/ for violations of the various provisions of PNDT Act 1994 / Rules 1996 (Annexure - 6).
4. **4809 inspections** of various ultrasound clinics have been conducted till date.
5. **Registration of ISI-ultrasound centre has been suspended/ cancelled** for violation of various provisions of the PNDT Act.
6. Recently the following actions are taken against the violators of the PNDT Act: -



- (i) Prabhat Ultrasound Centre, B. K. Chowk, Faridabad was raided and caught red handed with Rs. 5000/- taking from a decoy patient for conducting sex determination test and informing the decoy patient regarding the sex of the foetus i.e. "FEMALE". The ultrasound machine was seized and sealed on the spot, registration was suspended and show cause notice was issued.
- (ii) Registration of Dhir Hospital, Bhiwani has been suspended and ultrasound machine has been seized and sealed
- (iii) In district Hisar, 4 ultrasound centres and 3 MTP centres have been seized and sealed.
- (iv) In district Sirsa, 2 ultrasound centres have been seized and sealed.
- (v) In district Ambala, 1 ultrasound centres have been seized and sealed

All the District Appropriate Authorities have been directed to take personal interest and play a proactive role in conducting raids in the clinics operating and violating various provisions of the PNDT Act by deploying decoy customers and as a result of this, 34 prosecution complaints (7 in Faridabad, 6 in Gurgaon, 5 in Hisar, 3 in Rewari, 2 each in Ambala,

Kurukshetra & Rohtak and 1 each in in Bhiwani, Fatehabad, Jhajjar, Karnal, Panipat

—  
Sirsa and Yamuna Nagar) (Annexure - 7) and 1 FIR lodged (Hisar) against the violators of various provisions of PNDT Act 1994 & Rules 1996 have been filed in the respective courts. Out of these 34 cases, 18 cases have been filed for Sex Determination, 5 cases for issuing of prohibited advertisement, 9 cases for Non-maintenance of Records and 2 cases being unregistered. First 3 court cases under this Act were launched in Haryana (district Faridabad), which were first of its kind in the whole country and thus became a trendsetter.

In one case "State Vs Anil Sabhani, Palwal, Faridabad" under the PNDT Act, the court has ordered against Dr. Anil Sabhani and Mr. Kartar Singh, Technician to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of two years and to pay a fine of Rs. 5,000/- each. The case has already been sent to Medical Council of India for suspension of registration of the said doctor.

**In two other cases "State Vs Dr. Surinder Yadav. Gurgaon" and "State Vs S. N. Indora. Faridabad", the charges have been framed against the accused.**

A team of six senior health officials raided Bhargava Nursing Home, Rewari on 11.04.2006. A decoy customer, who was a four-month pregnant, was sent to Bhargava Nursing Home with numbered currency notes. Dr. (Mrs.) Vijay Bhargava conducted the sex determination test and disclosed the sex of the foetus. Dr. Ashok Bhargava (husband of Dr. Vijay Bhargava) was caught red handed in this raid while taking Rs. 2350/- from the patient for conducting the

test. The health officers raided the clinic and recovered the currency notes. The ultrasound machine has been seized & sealed at the spot and a show cause notice was served.

In a judgment in the court of Sh. N. P. Dewett, Addl. Session Judge, Gurgaon in a case "State Vs Rajni and Others", under the MTP Act on 02.03.2006, Dr. Rajni has been convicted to undergo vigorous imprisonment for a period of one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 1000/- under Section 15 (2) and 15 (3) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and in default of payment of fine the convict Dr. Rajni shall undergo simple imprisonment for a period of one month more. The convict Neera (patient undergoing the MTP) has also been sentenced to undergo vigorous imprisonment for a period of 2 years for commission of offence under Section 315 IPC. She is also sentenced to undergo vigorous imprisonment for a period of 2 years for offence under Section 317 IPC. The convicts have been sent to district jail Gurgaon for execution of the sentence awarded.



Smt. Joginder Kaur, Trained Dai and her Assistant Smt. Rekha was running a clinic in Ambala City. On dated 23.10.2006, the then Civil Surgeon and his team raided the clinic and caught them red handed for conducting illegal Medical Termination of Pregnancy. On dated 14.03.2007, a fast track court

has convicted Smt. Joginder Kaur and her Assistant Smt. Rekha to undergo imprisonment for a period of two years and a fine of Rs. 2000/- for conducting illegal Medical Termination of Pregnancy.

The Act provides following punishment and penalties: -

- (a) Any Contravention of any provision of this Act by any doctor / person (owner or employee) attracts imprisonment up to 3 years and fine up to Rs. 10,000/- on 1<sup>st</sup> offence. On every subsequent conviction the punishment may extend to 5, years and fine up to Rs. 50,000/- .
- (b) Any person who seeks the aid of any centre / doctor or any person for sex selection or for sex detection attracts imprisonment for a term up to 3 years And fine upto Rs 50,000 on 1<sup>st</sup> Offence punishment may extend to 5 years and fine up to Rs. 1,00,000/-.
- (c) The registration of the doctor can be suspended if charges are framed by the court till the case is disposed off and on conviction for removal of his name from register of the Council for a period of 5 years for 1<sup>st</sup> offence & permanently for any subsequent offence.

The Haryana State is making all efforts to root out this menace from the society by adopting various measures to uplift the status of girl child and women through various welfare schemes and Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities highlighting the need for educating women, women empowerment and regarding the menace of dowry, pre-natal sex determination, female foeticide etc. Community awareness is being created by adopting an holistic approach to make it a people's movement through various IEC activities like Mahila Swasthya Sangh's meetings at grass root levels by LHV/ ANM/ AWW, workshops/ seminars at PHC/ block and district levels, posters, handbills, calendars, tin plates, exhibition, talks etc. Cinema slides and messages on Citi Cable T.V are also being given. Print & Electronic media is also being widely used to educate the masses regarding this menace. Public forum have been repeatedly used for addressing the issue of female foeticide.

**Following awareness generation activities have also been conducted in the State both at State & District level: -**

1. Message/appeal to Stop Pre-Natal Sex Determination & female foeticide issued by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana.
2. Message/appeal to Stop Pre-Natal Sex Determination & female foeticide issued by Hon'ble Health Minister, Haryana.
3. A special half an hour programme under Human Rights "Ek Chitthi Maa Ke Naam" was featured by Door Darshan (DD-I) for creating public awareness against the menace of Pre-Natal Sex Determination & female foeticide.

4. A one-day Regional Workshop on implementation of PNDT Act - 1994, to sensitize the Appropriate Authorities of Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana & UT Chandigarh, was held at Chandigarh. It was sponsored by UNFP A in collaboration with MOHFW, Department of Family Welfare, Gal and Health Department, Govt. of Haryana.
5. The State of Haryana, Punjab & UT Chandigarh have jointly sponsored two TV spots prepared by famous TV artist and celebrity Sh. Jaspal Bhatti to create mass awareness in the region against Pre-Natal Sex determination & female foeticide for general public & medical fraternity.
6. In the year 2005, a state-level workshop on PNDT Act was held at Rohtak This workshop was attended by 73 delegates including all the Civil Surgeons, all the nodal officers Haryana, ten senior-most SMOs, senior officers of Govt. of India, Health Department & Law Department, Haryana, NGOs and Professors from PGIMS Rohtak & IMA Rohtak..
7. On September 8\_9<sup>th</sup> 2005, a State level workshop on PNDT was organized In collaboration with RRC- Mamta.
8. In the State assembly session, a debate took place to discuss declining sex ratio, women empowerment and implementation of PNDT Act in the State. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana declared on the floor of the house that a rebate of 10 paise per unit on electricity bill will be given in case the property as well as electricity meter is in the name of woman. Similarly, a rebate of 2% on registration fee W.r.t. sale/ purchase of land

- in name of woman will be given. As a **result**, the Govt. of Haryana has decided to give concession of 10 Paisa per unit for domestic electricity connection in the name of woman, in case that the property is owned by woman. General Manager (Commercial), Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam has issued instruction vide their Memo No. Ch2/TR-72(90) Tariff/woman/loose dated 30.08.2005. Similarly, the Govt. of Haryana has decided to give 2% rebate on stamp duty in respect of purchase of immovable property by women vide Notification No. S.O.56/C.A.2/1899/S.9/2005 dated 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005 of Revenue Department, Haryana.
9. The Govt. of Haryana is creating facilities to promote and provide for safe delivery in neat and clean environment, especially in rural areas, thus reducing the Infant Mortality & Maternal Mortality.
  10. The Govt. of Haryana has also decided to reserve 33% seats for women in direct recruitment quota in teaching categories vide notification No. 15/75-2005-CO-(4) dated 10<sup>th</sup> August 2005 of Education Department, Haryana.
  11. The Govt. of Haryana has launched "Ladli Scheme" through Women & Child Development Department vide notification No. 2750-SW(3)2005 dated November 2005. Under this scheme, the Government will provide benefit financial assistance of Rs 5000/- @ Rs. 2500 per girl child on the birth of 2<sup>nd</sup> girl child per annum for 5 years.
  12. Emphasis is made on registration of all pregnancies and tracking pregnancy between 12-20 weeks, which is the time for sex determination and female foeticide.
  13. The State of Haryana is implementing the Balika Samridhi Yojna scheme in the State through Women and Child Development Department, which has been introduced vide letter No. F.No 5-7/96-WW/WD in November 1999, Govt. of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development, New Delhi. Under this scheme, the cash assistance for below poverty line families has been given with Ante-natal care, institutional care during delivery and immediate postpartum period.
  14. A workshop organized by Ladli (NGO), Ved Vignan Maha Vidya Peeth (The Art of Living) and UNFPA on the subject "India's Missing Daughters: Faith for Action Against Sex Selection" on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005. The participants of this workshop are Religious leaders, NGOs, Media and Govt. officers of various states including Haryana.
  15. Govt. of Haryana is establishing 300 Delivery Huts in the State in 1<sup>st</sup> phase (September 2005-06) and 200 delivery huts in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase (2006-07) in order to ensure safe delivery in neat & clean environment where birth certificates are being given, which will help in better monitoring of male-female ratio.
  16. As per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the State Appropriate Authority published the booklet based on quarterly PNDT implementation report up to 31.03.2005 for information of general public.
  17. Sarvdharma Chetna Yatra on the theme of "Save the girl Child" was organized by the well-known social activist Swami Agnivesh in conjunction with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India from Tankara (Gujrat)

- to Amritsar. Full support was provided to the yatra while passing through Haryana by participation of health staff.
18. Monitoring Death & Birth registration - Birth registration at PHC level has been started, as close monitoring is possible to determine number of male-female children born. It will also be possible to monitor sex ratio even up to village level. Monthly monitoring is being done up to peripheral level and the sex ratio as per this input is given as feedback to all the concerned to take corrective measures.
  19. On 19.11.2005, a workshop was organized by Women & Child Development department on Women empowerment at Kurukshetra in which declining sex ratio was main cause of concern. It was attended by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Health Minister, Ms. Sailja Kumari, Poverty Elevation Minister, GOI, Sh. Naveen Jindal, Member Parliament, Dr. Ram Parkash, Officiating President, Haryana State Congress Committee, Chief Secretary, Haryana, Financial Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Health Department and DGHS, Haryana.
  20. State Supervisory Board meeting was held on 12.07.2006 under the chairpersonship of Hon'ble Health Minister, Haryana.
  21. On 28.11.2005, a workshop was organized by VHAP, which was attended by DGHS, DD (FW) and Civil Surgeon, Ambala.
  22. On 23.12.2005, a workshop was organized by VHAP, which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Health Minister, Haryana and attended by DGHS, officers from State H.Q. and Civil Surgeons.
  23. On 08.06.2006, a one-day Regional Workshop on implementation of PNDT Act - 1994, to sensitize the Appropriate Authorities of Haryana, was held at Chandigarh. It was sponsored by RRC-Mamta.
  24. On dated 06.09.2006, a Balika Bachao Samelan was organized by Multi-purpose Health Workers, Haryana at Sonapat under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana.
  25. On dated 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006, two days workshop on implementation of PNDT Act 1994, to sensitize the Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners Ambala, Kaithal, Kurukshetra, Sonapat, Rohtak and Appropriate Authorities was held at Red Bishop, Panchkula
  26. Legal Experts meeting - Judicial Colloquium on the PC & PNDT Act on 03.12.2006 at Hotel Taj, Sector - 17, Chandigarh organized by Human Rights Law Network in which worthy FCHM presented the Status of implementation of PNDT Act in the State.
  27. Govt. of India has made a provision for women empowerment in Janani Suraksha Yojna by giving financial assistance to mother Rs. 500/- and Rs. 700/- if she had a Home / institutional delivery respectively in rural area and in urban area Rs. 600/- are provided to mothers.
  28. On dated 09.12.2006, a seminar on the subject "Kanya Bhrun Hatya Samsya and Samadhan" was organized by Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha at Jind under the chairpersonship of Swami Agnivesh and on 10.12.2006, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana addressed to public in a sammelan

organized by Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha at Jind for a mission "Kanya Bhrun hatya ke virudh" in the memory of Swami Indervesh Ji.

29. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana has declared year 2006 as "Girl Child Year" in which the girls from 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> class were having regular free health check ups and to prevent anaemia one tablet Ofloron Folic acid (100 mg) is being given weekly.
30. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana has announced a prize of Rs. 5.0 lac, Rs. 3.0 lac and Rs. 2.0 lac to first three district showing improvement in the child sex ratio.
31. On dated 10.03.2007, a State level seminar against female foeticide was organized by Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HSLSA) at Dronacharya Stadium, Kurukshetra attended by approximately 20,000 persons of PRIs, Anganwari Workers, NGOs, IMA, Registered Ultrasonologist, students etc. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vijender Jain, Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court. Dr. H. R. Bhardwaj, Hon'ble Union Minister of Law & Justice, Hon'ble Sh. Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Chief Minister, Haryana, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Executive Chairman, HSLSA, Hon'ble Health Minister, Haryana, other senior Judges and officers from Health Department, Women & Child Development Department also attended this seminar. The problem of declining sex ratio in Haryana was discussed at large. Besides this, all the District Appropriate Authorities are strictly complying

with directions and judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Haryana is one of the few States where sincere efforts are being made to implement the various provisions of the PreNatal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994 & Rules 1996 with full vigor.

The State Govt. is committed to curb the menace of Pre-natal Sex Determination leading to sex selective female foeticide, which has resulted in this gender imbalance.



*(Ms Mohuya Chaudhuri ,Chairperson National Media Coalition speaking at the Haryana Media Consultation on Female Foeticide)*

**Ms Mohuya Chaudhury** said that the Coalition has since the last Year and Half has done tremendous work . She said that the Members of the Coalition which is spread across the country have a commitment which they have made to themselves i.e. commitment to cover developmental issues.

She said that the National Media Coalition is committed to cover stories on Gender Based Violence and Female Foeticide was one of the Issues which is on a priority list . She gave a example as to

how a story done by Coalition Member Neelam Raj was mentioned in the Judgement delivered by the Palwal Judge while spelling out India's first conviction on Female Foeticide

She said that Television has, indeed, had a positive influence on society.. Though television is only a little over a decade old, television in India has made rapid strides. Because this happened so quickly, it leaves one wondering whether certain things had to be given up in the process.

Television sets the agenda and pressures the print. Earlier, stories were filed at the end of the day, leaving time to work on the story; however, now there is no time to think about the story. Reporting has now become fast paced endeavour, and the journalist, only a tool.

The presenter acknowledged the added pressure the TRP (Television Rating Point) brings. Crime shows such as *FIR*, *Jurm* and *Sansini* have the highest ratings on the TRP scale, which means there is an enormous pressure on the reporter to conform to these popular TV standards.

Making a note of the differences between Hindi and English news channel, the presenter noted that clashes between the Hindi and English media desks occur over how a story is to be presented. In the case of NDTV, which has an English and Hindi channel, debates centre around how to present the same story on these different channels. The presenter included that stories in Hindi often become sensationalised. Vernacular channels can make a huge difference in reportage if they look beyond sensational value.

NDTV has strict guidelines, but even with these guidelines, there are misses. The presenter advised participants that finding a balance between ethical reporting and the pressures to sensationalise is a daily struggle. To evolve, journalists must learn from and connect with the stories. Journalists should specifically invest their time in human rights stories. Though it is a big commitment, it is more than worth while. On BBC, they always go back and do follow-ups on the stories they present. Reporters in India too should do follow-up reporting on the stories they have presented. The print media has a long tradition of being responsible, but are now more than ever coming under the pressures of TV to become more sensational.

Journalists must figure out the focus of the story and what the end point should be. Journalists should understand and be aware of the law (lawyers can be utilised for this purpose).The words and angle used are the backbone of a report, as they provide the human face in the story. When interviewing, journalists can not afford to make a person feel like a helpless victim; otherwise interviews can become hostile interrogations. Guidelines should be laid out describing how an interview is to be done, keeping in mind the interviewee's best interest. Interviews should have more thought behind them, and should not be carried out from across the table. If a child is to be interviewed, then the child's parents or guardians should be there. Journalists must take charge of the story and invest interest in it to represent it entirely ethically. She also emphasised that when interviewing a family, it is important to see whether or not the story ends there.

The utilisation of hidden cameras in this way can represent the death of journalism, as the presenter

put it. Unless it is a significant crime, using sting journalism as a method of reportage does not make sense. Rights-based reporting means that ethical guidelines must be laid down. When a pin-hole camera can go anywhere, no one is there to decide that a line is being crossed. It must be kept in mind that NGOs are also subject to respecting the identity of those for whom they work. NGOs can not reveal identities through photographs placed on their websites or any other form of publications/broadcasts.

While concluding she said that the issue of Female Foeticide is one of the issue in which the National Media Coalition is committed and she hoped that in the coming months lot of sensitive reporting on Female Foeticide will be conducted by the members. She stressed the need of Educating the Vernacular media and Tehsil based Journalists to project the positive Image of the Girl Child . In Haryana and Punjab Journlists should work together to cover all the aspects of the issue of Female Foeticide e.g. Ramifications of Female Foeticide, The Role Of the Medical Fraternity needs to be investigated and Role models in the Medical Fraternity need to be projected.

**Ms Archana Tamang of UNIFEM** shed light upon the role of UNIFEM as an Activist born out of women movement and its desire to maintain its identity as promoter of 'Gender Equality' by 'responding to the needs of women' in ever changing perspectives. She stressed upon the combating strategies focusing upon the opinion leaders and 'gate keepers' of the society/community, who control the way to minds of women and children. In the end of her address Ms. Archana Tamang calling upon everyone to come

together and fight She by her unique way of addressing took the hearts of the participants in Journey of victims of Trafficking who have been caught in forced Marriage , showing them various brutal form of exploitation of innocents and helpless for different purposes. In this she mentioned the story of Tripala who had been sold to a family in Haryana as a Forced Bride and was killed by the husband as she refused to sleep with her brother in law . Obviously this is one of the important Ramifications of Female Foeticide .



*(Ms Archana Tamang UNIFEM, speaking at the Haryana Media Consultation on Female Foeticide)*

She made an compassionate appeal that trafficking involving sexual exploitation and violation of Dignity & of Human Rights, even if there is one case it is too much and calls for action. She said that Foeticide and Human Trafficking is a major crime control issue and all Govt agencies, Ngo, Civil Society Inter Govt Agencies should join hands to combat this menace. It is about inclusion and participation of vulnerable, excluded sections of the society, women and children. She further expressed the concern UNIFEM for addressing the needs of the survivors through 'age & gender specific responses' designed and planned through and in consultation with various partners. She also highlighted the 'need to restore



and build the self-esteem' of the victim and to address her 'need to belong', to her country, her society, her community, her family etc.

She informed the gathering that UNIFEM was committed to fight the issue of Trafficking in Haryana which is one of the important ramification of Female Foeticide. She said that UNIFEM will not only focus on these issues but also to bring gender equality in Haryana and Punjab which is much needed. She said that the National Media Coalition and the NGOs are all united to fight these gender based crimes in a rights based perspective. In work against gender-based violence, one factor that perpetuates discrimination is indifference. Outrage must permeate every level of society to change this indifference. The Media can play a vital role in changing mindsets, for they are the opinion formers that can provide the means for the public to become sensitive to the issues of concern.



*(Haryana Media Consultation on Female Foeticide )*

**Dr Garg Jt Secretary of the Indian Medical Association** and President of the Haryana Chapter of Indian Medical Association said that the Haryana Chapter was completely committed to the fight against Female Foeticide. He said that all the

members of the Association have committed not to undertake Sex Detremination Tests. He said that all Hospitals and Radiologists are displaying the Board that Sex Detremination Test are not done as per the Supreme Court Guidelines. He said that there is a urgent need to check the Quacks who are operating . He also said that though the association is carrying out Regular Monitoring a lot need to be done.

He said that the Doctors in Haryana had a very important obligation which they are following and will do whatever may be required for the Stabilisation of the Sex Ratio.

He said that the though there was a lot of work to be done by the Doctors it is also a fact that the Female Foeticide problem can be eradicated if we can change the mindset of the people. He personally took an oath that the Pind Daan and agni to be put after his death will be done by his daughter. He appealed to all journalists present to carry out such sensitive stories which can change peoples perceptions.

***Professor Raina while speaking on the PCPNDT Act that the Act and regulates the following :***

(1) no Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic unless registered under this Act, shall conduct or associate with, or help in, conducting activities relating to pre-natal diagnostic techniques;

(2) no Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic shall employ or cause to be employed any person who does not possess the prescribed qualifications;

(3) no medical geneticist, gynaecologist, paediatrician, registered medical practitioner or any other person shall conduct or cause to be conducted or aid in conducting by himself or through any other person, any pre-natal diagnostic techniques at a place other than a place registered under this Act.



He also while explaining the Act said that no pre-natal diagnostic techniques shall be used or conducted unless the person qualified to do so is satisfied that any of the following conditions are fulfilled, namely:--

- (i) age of the pregnant woman is above thirty-five years;
- (ii) the pregnant woman has undergone of two or more spontaneous abortions or foetal loss;
- (iii) the pregnant woman had been exposed to potentially teratogenic agents such as drugs, radiation, infection or chemicals;
- (iv) the pregnant woman has a family history of mental retardation or physical deformities such as spasticity or any other genetic disease;
- (v) any other condition as may be specified by the Central Supervisory Board;

Section -6 of the Act ***prohibited.Determination of***

- (a) no Genetic Counselling Centre or Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic shall conduct or cause to be conducted in its Centre, Laboratory or Clinic, pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultrasonography, for the purpose of determining the sex of a foetus;
- (b) no person shall conduct or cause to be conducted any pre-natal diagnostic techniques including ultrasonography for the purpose of determining the sex of a foetus.

He also spoke on length on the role of appropriate authority and said that the act laid out the formation of Appropriate Authorities

#### ***Appropriate Authority and Advisory Committee.-***

- (1) The Central Government shall appoint, by notification in the Official Gazette, one or more Appropriate Authorities for each of the Union territories for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The State Government shall appoint, by notification in the Official Gazette, one or more Appropriate Authorities for the whole or part of the State for the purposes of this Act having regard to the intensity of the problem of pre-natal sex determination leading to female foeticide. (3) The officers appointed as Appropriate Authorities under sub- section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be,--

- (a) when appointed for the whole of the State or the Union territory, of or above the rank of the Joint Director of Health and Family Welfare; and
- (b) when appointed for any part of the State or the Union territory, of such other rank as the State Government or the Central Government, as the case may be, may deem fit.

(4) The Appropriate Authority shall have the following functions, namely:--

- (a) to grant, suspend or cancel registration of a Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic;
- (b) to enforce standards prescribed for the Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory and Genetic Clinic;
- (c) to investigate complaints of breach of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder and take immediate action; and
- (d) to seek and consider the advice of the Advisory Committee, constituted under sub-section (5), on application for registration and on complaints for suspension or cancellation of registration.

(5) The Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, shall constitute an Advisory Committee for each Appropriate Authority to aid and advise the Appropriate Authority in the discharge of its functions, and shall appoint one of the members of the Advisory Committee to be its Chairman

(6) The Advisory Committee shall consist of—

- (a) three medical experts from amongst gynaecologists, obstericians, paediatricians and medical geneticists; one legal expert;
- (b) one officer to represent the department dealing with information and publicity of the State Government or the Union territory, as the case may be;
- (c) three eminent social workers of whom not less than one shall be from amongst representatives of women's organisations.

(7) No person who, in the opinion of the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, has been associated with the use or promotion of pre-natal diagnostic technique for determination of sex shall be appointed as a member of the Advisory Committee.

(8) The Advisory Committee may meet as and when it thinks fit or on the request of the Appropriate Authority for consideration of any application for

registration or any complaint for suspension or cancellation of registration and to give advice thereon:

Provided that the period intervening between any two meetings shall not exceed the prescribed period.

(9) The terms and conditions subject to which a person may be appointed to the Advisory Committee and the procedure to be followed by such Committee in the discharge of its functions shall be such as may be prescribed.

**19. Certificate of registration.-** (1) The Appropriate Authority shall, after holding an inquiry and after satisfying itself that the applicant has complied with all the requirements of this Act and the rules made thereunder and having regard to the advice of the Advisory Committee in this behalf, grant a certificate of registration in the prescribed form jointly or separately to the Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic, as the case may be

(2) If, after the inquiry and after giving an opportunity of being heard to the applicant and having regard to the advice of the Advisory Committee, the Appropriate Authority is satisfied that the applicant has not complied with the requirements of this Act or the rules, it shall, for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application for registration.

(3) Every certificate of registration shall be renewed in such manner and after such period and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

(4) The certificate of registration shall be displayed by the registered Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic

Laboratory or Genetic Clinic in a conspicuous place at its place of business.

**20. Cancellation or suspension of registration.-**

(1) The Appropriate Authority may *suo moto*, or on complaint, issue a notice to the Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic to show cause why its registration should not be suspended or cancelled for the reasons mentioned in the notice.

(2) If, after giving a reasonable opportunity of being heard to the Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic and having regard to the advice of the Advisory Committee, the Appropriate Authority is satisfied that there has been a breach of the provisions of this Act or the rules, it may, without prejudice to any criminal action that it may take against such Centre, Laboratory or Clinic, suspend its registration for such period as it may think fit or cancel its registration, as the case may be.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) and (2), if the Appropriate Authority is, of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the public interest, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, suspend the registration of any Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic without issuing any such notice referred to in sub-section (1).

**22. Prohibition of advertisement relating to pre-natal determination of sex and punishment for contravention.-**

(1) No person, organisation, Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic shall issue or cause to be issued any advertisement in any

manner regarding facilities of pre-natal determination of sex available at such Centre, Laboratory, Clinic or any other place.

(2) No person or organisation shall publish or distribute or cause to be published or distributed any advertisement in any manner regarding facilities of pre-natal determination of sex available at any Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic Clinic or any other place.

(3) Any person who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

*Explanation.*--For the purposes of this section, "advertisement" includes any notice, circular, label wrapper or other document and also includes any visible representation made by means of any light, sound, smoke or gas.

### **23. Offences and penalties.-**

(1) Any medical geneticist, gynaecologist, registered medical practitioner or any person who owns a Genetic Counselling Centre, a Genetic Laboratory or a Genetic Clinic or is employed in such a Centre, Laboratory or Clinic and renders his professional or technical services to or at such a Centre, Laboratory or Clinic, whether on an honorary basis or otherwise, and who contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or rules made thereunder shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees and on any subsequent conviction, with imprisonment which may extend to five years

and with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.

(2) The name of the registered medical practitioner who has been convicted by the court under sub-section (1), shall be reported by the Appropriate Authority to the respective State Medical Council for taking necessary action including the removal of his name from the register of the Council for a period of two years for the first offence and permanently for the subsequent offence.

(3) Any person who seeks the aid of a Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic or of a medical geneticist, gynaecologist or registered medical practitioner for conducting pre-natal diagnostic techniques on any pregnant woman (including such woman unless she was compelled to undergo such diagnostic techniques) for purposes other than those specified in clause (2) of section 4, shall, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees and on any subsequent conviction with imprisonment which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.

**24. Presumption in the case of conduct of pre-natal diagnostic techniques.-** Notwithstanding anything in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872), the court shall presume unless the contrary is proved that the pregnant woman has been compelled by her husband or the relative to undergo pre-natal diagnostic technique and such person shall be liable for abetment of offence under sub-section (3) of section 23 and shall be punishable for the offence specified under that section.

**25. *Penalty for contravention of the provisions of the Act or rules for which no specific punishment is provided.***- Whoever contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or any rules made thereunder, for which no penalty has been elsewhere provided in this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine, which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both and in the case of continuing contravention with an additional fine which may extend to five hundred rupees for every day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention.

**26. *Offences by companies.***-

(1) Where any offence, punishable under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where any offence punishable under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other

officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

*Explanation.*--For the purposes of this section,--

(a) "company" means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals, and

(b) "director", in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

**27. *Offence to be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.***-Every offence under this Act shall be cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.

**28. *Cognizance of offences.*** (1) No court shall take cognizance of an offence under this Act except on a complaint made by--

(a) the Appropriate Authority concerned, or any officer authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or State Government, as the case may be, or the Appropriate Authority; or

(b) a person who has given notice of not less than thirty days in the manner prescribed, to the Appropriate Authority, of the alleged offence and of his intention to make a complaint to the court.

*Explanation.*--For the purpose of this clause, "person" includes a social organisation.



(2) No court other than that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

(3) Where a complaint has been made under clause (b) of subsection (1), the court may, on demand by such person, direct the Appropriate Authority to make available copies of the relevant records in its possession to such person.



**Shri P K Suman of the Prabhat Khabar** who is also a winner of UNDP Media Fellowship shared his experience as to how he has brought the Issue of Trafficked Children of Jharkhand being brought to Delhi Haryana and Punjab into one of the focal point of Jharkhand Govt .

*Prabhat Khabar*, a vernacular newspaper in Jharkhand , was able to report on the problem of girls from Jharkhand, numbering around 45,000, being auctioned off for domestic work or fake marriages in Delhi Haryana and Punjab. Haryana's skewed sex ratio, as a result of the high girl-child mortality, exacerbates the situation and creates a greater demand for girls from Jharkhand to be bought for marriage and other forms of exploitation.

This course of action can be attributed to *Prabhat Khabar's* partnership with Shakti Vahini, an NGO

based on in Delhi, as an example of the press media and NGOs working together against trafficking and VAW. Shakti Vahini was able to divulge information to *Prabhat Khabar*, which was then able to act upon the information and run a news story.

There have been other initiatives of partnerships within the media and NGO/CSOs. From these, many things have been learnt, particularly the difficulties media persons undergo. These partnerships have been carried out in Haryana, Chandigarh & Punjab. While it is difficult to take these issues forward and bring solutions to light, it is possible through strong collaboration and far-reaching networking.

He said that he has made several trips to Haryana to highlight the problems of Jharkhand girls who are being Trafficked in this region due to low sex Ratio. He explained that the shortage of women in Haryana has created a demand for women from other regions of the country who can do both farm work and also double up as wives. He has done a series of stories from Haryana which created a tremendous pressure on the Jharkhand Govt to draft a Plan of Action to combat Trafficking of Women.

He has also done lot of Stories of Women of Jharkhand who have been trafficked to Haryana from the Nari Niketan after they were rescued.



While concluding he said that the problem of Female Foeticide in Haryana has become a issue of concern to many govts in the Eastern part of the country like Jharkhand, Bengal Assam , Uttar Pradesh Bihar etc.. He said that all Journalists should work together to highlight the various dimensions of Female Foeticide. It is important specially for the vernacular media to present the right image of the girl child and also educate the public of the very serious ramification of Female Foeticide in the region. He said that the problem of foeticide was linked to changing people perception towards women and he said that the media can play a important role in this. He appealed to the Haryana Media to rise to the occasion and contribute in this movement.



(Shri Jitendra Singh of SANNADH at Haryana Media Consultation)

**Mr Jitendra Singh of Sannadh** said that force of the son complex cuts across religion, caste, socioeconomic group and place of residence, and is strong in all the three States under study. It is increasing with the rise of consumerism propagated by commercial TV advertising, and the growing greed is reflected in higher and higher demands for dowry and the increasingly high cost of marriage. He said that Gender balance cannot be restored unless we make a frontal attack on all the players and

stakeholders on the scene. It calls for concerted action involving the Government, NGOs, civil society, social reformers and individual men and women with vision.

He said that SANNADH had come out with a Booklet in Hindi ***“Kaliyon ko khilne do”*** containing poems of 100 poets from all parts of the country and said that the same has been distributed as a part of the Resource material .

He said that it was important to change peoples perception toward the Girl Child and that the media can do the best work. He said that war against Female Foeticide can be won only if we can change the way people think about the girl child.

In the end he narrated a parable which was about that society can be changed if we as each individual change our lives. It is the individual whose determination can change the society. He said that the fight against Female Foeticide was duty each individual present in this room.

## DAY 2

### **Ramifications Of Female Foeticide – Shri Kamal Kumar Pandey , Advocate Supreme Court Of India**

- Basically Female Foeticide is a socio-cultural problem.
- It is related to mind set & religio-cultural mores of society.
- Originates from the predominately patriarchal setup of Indian society.
- It results from multitude of factors causing subjugation and providing secondary status to women in family and society.



- In patrilineal structure males carry family line and therefore become extremely important and centre of power in family and society, while women become a mere tool for supporting this structure and fulfilling the needs and demands of male members.
- In patriarchal structure, apart from giving birth and rearing children women have no real worth of their own.
- Their valuelessness reflects in varied forms of violence that they have to face in their life.
- Patriarchal structure demands purity of race and blood and therefore sexual relations of women are governed by family/race honour and they are secluded/ confined in the name of protection.
- Marriage and children are the only objective of life of a woman and therefore demands of dowry also become very high.
- High Dowry
- Demands further devalues female and makes them a burden for their parents.
- Women are subjected to gender based violence/ discrimination, domestic violence, sexual abuse, violence, exploitation.
- This perpetual cycle of violence continues throughout their life in every stage from womb to tomb.
- It continues through generations and remains very much intact despite the changes in social, cultural, political and economical structures.
- Female foeticide is manifestation of this perpetual violence that not only continues unabated despite all the constitutional and legal protection rather is spreading far and even the economic forces and scientific and

technological tools are transformed into tools of violence with regard to women.

- Female foeticide is a comparatively new phenomenon with respect to other various kinds of violence against women.
- However, assisted by the fast paced, instant and easily accessible technology tools and fueled by the blind and unethical commercial forces its affects are disastrous in nature, huge in magnitude and with a potential of a catastrophe. Therefore had become easily visible and heavily felt.
- Earlier young girls were killed after their birth adopting some very cruel method like starvation, crushing under the bed, giving poison, sinking in milk, suffocating in husk etc.
- Female infanticide, though much widespread than believed but still was confined to certain regions and pockets. But the practice of female foeticide had spread across the regions and had reduced the guilt factor attached to killing a girl after birth. The unborn remains so for ever.
- The practice started with the availability of amniocentesis in 1974. the technique was originally developed to diagnose chromosomal abnormalities.
- The abuse led to ban sex determination in govt. hospitals in 1979. This also gave opportunity to private clinics to capitalize and gain monopoly.
- Ultrasound machines in 80's became highly popular due to instant and non invasive method. Several clinics started advertising and became well known throughout the country.

- Under intense lobbying Maharashtra legislated in 1988.
- Portable machines made it possible for technology to reach even in deep rural areas through mobile clinics and sex ratio started falling rapidly.
- Central Govt. brought PNDT Act in 1994. However, by large it remained unimplemented and at the same time advancement in technology made it possible to select sex even before conception.
- A Public Interest Litigation was filed in SC in 2000.
- Under directions of court several steps were taken to implement the Act and the PNDT Act and its Rules were amended.
- At few places registrations have been cancelled and in 2006 first conviction of a Doctor took place in Haryana.

### **Causes behind Female Foeticide**

- Patriarchal attitudes and institutions
- overwhelming desire for sons
- discrimination against females
- birth of a son is perceived as an opportunity for upward mobility while the birth of a daughter is believed to result in downward economic mobility
- women viewed as liability needing protection
- property-less classes dispose off daughters to avoid dowry harassment
- Benefits of investing in women goes to the families into which they are married.
- propertied class do not desire daughters because after marriage of the daughter, the son-in-law may demand a share in the property
- adoption of small family norm - "intensification" of son preference
- Decline in fertility,
- Increasing availability of pre-conception technologies.
- availability and use of the technology
- Widespread availability of services
- Inexpensive alternative to raising girls.
- Simple means of earning money
- Active promotion of sex determination as a means to abort "unwanted" pregnancies
- Ignorance/inadequate understanding of the consequences of PBEF
- Ignorance/inadequate understanding of the law

### **Ramifications**

- Will deteriorate already poor human right standards
- Fuel further discrimination
- Intensify gender bias
- will disempower women.
- Fewer girls mean that their childhood, their marriage and their future will come under a variety of social and physical threats.
- Child marriage getting prevalent
- Adversely affect girl child education and therefore literacy rates/standards in country
- Poor mother health & education due to her tender age will adversely affect the health and education of her children
- Multiple abortions and increased mortality
- Large no of Boys not getting Married
- families are resorting to buying girls
- Commodification (Buying & selling)
- Rape & gang rape
- Prostitution and child-prostitution.

- Crime against women on the rise
- Trafficking of Women
- Criminal networks in source and destination area
- General Crime on the rise
- forced abduction and kidnap of girls,
- Increase social and administrative cost due to increased crime
- forced polyandry,
- Polygamy by rich
- Adversely transform family structures and moral standards of family relations and society
- Illicit relations and adultery.
- Health hazards and its cost related to human resource as well as economical
- Will create problems of parentage and inheritance
- Risk of children being left behind
- Child abuse and exploitation
- Adverse affect on politics and therefore development will suffer

**Dr Gitanjali Nain Gill of the Campus Law Centre, University of Delhi** spoke about Gender Cleansing – A Moral Technological Holocaust. She presented the figures which indicated that the Sex Ratio is constantly falling every year and the census figures are an indicator. She said that the 2001 census reflected a drop of 18 points when compared to the 1991 census and this indicate Baby girls are being aborted or killed and this shortfall is reflected more in affluent areas and is slowly spreading from Haryana , Punjab to entire North India. She said that statistics indicated that more than 10 million fetuses have been aborted since the last two decades.

She said the fall in sex ratio was due to the patriarchal set up of the society and also due to the son centric Approach which are deep rooted rituals and practices, Dowry –Financial Liability, Pind Daan , Continuation of Lineage and inheritance and also to the general beliefs that son provide care to parents in the old age and also that men are bread earners.



***(Dr Ms Gitanjali Nain Gill of Faculty of Law Delhi University)***

She said that this has led to the social evils like polygamy, buying of brides, devaluation of the females and Gender Discrimination. She also spoke on the various laws in India which protect the rights of women. The General Legislations included Constitution of India Article 14 Equality before Law, Article 15 Non Discrimination, Protection of Dignity and Article 21 Protection of Life.

She said that Section 312 -318 of the Indian Penal Code clearly makes Female Infanticide a Crime

### **Section 312. Causing miscarriage**

Whoever voluntarily causes a woman with child to miscarry, shall, if such miscarriage be not caused in good faith for the purpose of saving the life of the woman, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both; and, if the woman be

quick with child, shall he punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation- A woman who causes herself to miscarry, is within the meaning of this section.

### **Section 313. Causing miscarriage without woman's consent**

Whoever commits the offence defined in the last preceding section without the consent of the woman, whether the woman is quick with child or not, shall be punished with <sup>104</sup>[imprisonment for life], or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

### **Section 314. Death caused by act done with intent to cause miscarriage**

Whoever, with intent to cause the miscarriage of a woman with child, does any act which causes the death of such woman, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine;

If act done without woman's consent- And if the act is done without the consent of the woman, shall be punished either with <sup>104</sup>[imprisonment for life], or with the punishment above mentioned.

Explanation- It is not essential to this offence that the offender should know that the act is likely to cause death.

### **Section 315. Act done with intent to prevent child being born alive or to cause it to die after birth**

Whoever before the birth of any child does any act with the intention of thereby preventing that child from being born alive or causing it to die after its birth, and does by such act prevent that child from being born alive, or causes it to die after its birth, shall, if such act be not caused in good faith for the purpose of saving the life of the mother, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, or with fine, or with both.

### **Section 316. Causing death of quick unborn child by act amounting to culpable homicide**

Whoever does any act under such circumstances, that if he thereby caused death he would be guilty of culpable homicide, and does by such act cause the death of a quick unborn child, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

#### **Illustration**

A, knowing, that he is likely to cause the death of a pregnant woman does an act which, if it caused the death of the woman, would amount to culpable homicide. The woman is injured, but does not die; but the death of an unborn quick child with which she is pregnant is thereby caused. A is guilty of the offence defined in this section.

### **Section 317. Exposure and abandonment of child under twelve years, by parent or person having care of it**

Whoever being the father or mother of a child under the age of twelve years, or having the care of such child, shall expose or leave such child in any place with the intention of wholly abandoning such child,

shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, or with fine, or with both.

Explanation- This section is not intended to prevent the trial of the offender for murder or culpable homicide, as the case may be, if the child die in consequence of the exposure.

### **318. Concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body**

Whoever, by secretly burying or otherwise disposing of the dead body of a child whether such child die before or after or during its birth, intentionally conceals or endeavours to conceal the birth of such child, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

She also spoke about the **The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971** which spells out the code of Medical Ethics of abortion which can happen only when the health of pregnant women is endangered or failure of contraceptives. She said that failure of contraceptive clause is essentially a population control measure but the gender selective abortion and a genuine medical termination under MTPA is extremely difficult to establish . There are ways and means to circumvent the law.

On the issue of specific legislation on Foeticide she said that the Maharashtra Govt in 1978 banned the misuse of amniocentesis in Govt Hospitals and Lab. In 1988 The Maharashtra PNMT Act was brought followed by Punjab Gujarat and Haryana. The 2003 Amendment by the Govt of India made the act in its present form which is the PCPNMT Act.

She said that the Supreme Court in the Case of CEHAT v Union of India – AIR 2003 SC 309 has taken a Landmark decision on the Implementation of the Law.

She concluded Corrective Measures for the stabilization of the Sex Ratio should be taken and for this the Media could play a decisive role by changing the mindset of the general population . We should all strive for Empowerment of Women .

**Finally she gave a quote from the Diary of Unborn , Ajanta E Chakravarty 1996..**

*““ O soul of my soul, heart of my heart, hear my voice, my cry, my plea. A human being am I just like you, flesh and blood, acting with emotions, tortured by circumstances.... Please think once, just once, that I may turn out to be a bouquet of joy, a support, a pillar, a friend in whom you could rejoice time and again and emerge strongly every time. A baby you will be proud to call your own. A child who will hold your hand and walk with you right through the evening of your life. Giving back all that you gave and so much more..... Love me mother listen to me. Please. Do I, the unborn, have no rights?”*

**Shri Rajesh Chauhan of Dainik Jagran** shared his experiences of writing on the issue of Female Foeticide and Gender based Violence and discrimination. He said that as a vernacular Journalist writing in Hindi in Dainik Jagran he had taken up on a mission as to educate the general masses on the issue of Female Foeticide. He said that he is always on a look out of such stories and whenever he gets an opportunity he covers such stories in a very sensitive way. He said that the Hindi Media having a

larger reach among the rural areas had a big role in changing people's perceptions .

He gave a brief presentation on the type of stories covered by him



*(Rajinder Chauhan of Dainik Jagran at the Haryana Media Consultation )*

### ***“BETI KO ABHISHAAP MANTE HAI SHAHABAD KE LOG”***

This story was done on the basis of a study done by Kurukshetra University - Women Research Centre . This story covered on the issue that how the negative perceptions of the girl child had caused a fall in the Sex Ratio. This story dealt that Girls were a liability and sons were princes. This story brought about the fact that even though Shahbad had a good Literacy Rate still it had one of the lowest sex ratio. The report also mentioned the various aspect of Female Foeticide and its dangerous ramifications.

The Next Story he highlighted was

### ***“BADHTA JA RAHA HAI GARBHPAT KA GRAPH”***

This story was again done on the findings of the Women Research Centre of The Kurukshetra University on the number of abortions done in India . The report highlighted the fact that more than 1.5 Crore Abortions are done every year under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act and most of these abortions the girl child is eliminated. This story

brought to light the fact and figures regarding abortions and how this trend was going to have a bad effect on the Society.

Next ...

### ***SIKHON KE LIYE BETON SE KAM NAHI HAI BETIYAAN***

This story covered the new trend among the Sikh Community and how they have become aware of the problem of low sex ratio and the importance of women. It was a story on how the Sikh Community was addressing the low sex ratio by projecting the positive image of the girl child.

### ***BIDAMBANA : HONHAR BETIYON KA BHI NAHI KADRA***

This story was on a village which has provided two Women National Volley ball champion and how the village prided itself in producing these champions . The reporter found out that even though the village was priding itself on the hard work of the women champions its sex ratio was a drastic 616. The story portrayed the positive role women can play in society.

### ***BETIYON KI SURAKHSHA AB APKE HAWALE***

This story covered on the recent meeting in Kurukshetra in which the Chief Justice of Haryana and Punjab High Court Shri Virendra Jain, Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Singh Hooda and his cabinet colleagues had come together in a Rally on Female Foeticide and the Sankalp more than 10,000 people had made not to discriminate against the Girl Child. This story was given lot of importance and was covered on the front page. The reporter did a small Research and also made a table of the entire

schemes on Girl Child which are existing in Haryana for the welfare of the Girl Child.

The Reporter also gave a table on the various misconceptions and patriarchal views the society which leads to discrimination of the Girl Child. The reporter in bold highlighted the religious views and thinking on Female Foeticide which are as follows

- *Kanya Bhrun Hatya Abhimanyu Wadh Jaisa Hai*
- *Kanya Bhrun Hatya ka Pap Gau Hatya ke saman hai*
- *Kanya Bhrun Hatya karne se milega Narak*
- *Beti ke hatyare ko puja ka phal nahi*
- *Hindu Dharam mein Betiyon ko devi ka sthan hai.*
- *Kanya Bhrun hatya Brahman hatya saman hai.*

#### **PADHI LIKHI MAHILAYEN PUTRA MOH MEIN AAGE**

This story covered the fact that most of the abortions being done in the city hospitals in Kurukshetra involved women who are educated.

#### **PRATIDIN 12 MAHILAYEN UTPIDAN VA SHOSHAN KI SHIKAR**

This story covered on the rising violence against women which is an indicator of low status of women.

#### **“KANYA BHRUN HATYA KE KARANO KO KHATAM KARO”**

This story covered on a speech of Shri Mahamandaleswar Swami Dr Shashwatnand in which he had called upon the people to fight foeticide. The story was covered in a Box with figures of Kurukshetra District on Sex Ratio.

#### **“BARSAT BHI NAHI ROK PAYEE ABHIYAN”**

This story covered on a campaign undertaken by the District commissioner in various villages in Haryana on Female Foeticide.

#### **“DHOOL SAKTA HAI KANYA BHRUN HATYA KA KALANK”**

This story covered on the campaign undertaken by Religious Leaders Swami Sampurnand.

#### **“KANYA BHRUN HATYA KA VIRODH KARE MAHILAYEN – DR SAROJ”**

This was a story on the campaign undertaken by the district administration in which a leading women social activist exhorted rural women to fight female foeticide.

#### **“LADKO SE AAGE HAIN LADKIYAN”**

This story was on the performance of girls & women in various examination. This is again a positive story on the image of the girl Child.

Rajesh Chauhan said that he had till date covered more than 270 articles on female foeticide and said that all journalists in Haryana should cover such stories as Foeticide is one of the biggest challenge of our times and is a social problem which is the direct consequence of the patriarchal thinking of our society.

**Dr Bansal** explained the IMPORTANT SECTIONS Rules and Regulations of the Implementation of the Act as notified by the Haryana Government under the PCPNDT Act. The Knowledge of such sections and Rules is very important for the Journalists in order to

investigative Journalism on Female Foeticide. He appealed to Journalists to get all the information from the appropriate Authority on the status of Implementation of the PCPNDT Act in their Districts. For the information of Journalists he spelt out certain important sections which are as follows:

Every Genetic Counseling Centre, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic Clinic, Ultrasound Clinic and Imaging Centres shall maintain a register showing, in serial order, the names and addresses of the men or women given genetic counselling, subjected to pre-natal diagnostic procedures or pre-natal diagnostic tests, the names of their spouse or father and the date on which they first reported for such counselling, procedure or test.”;



*(Dr Bansal speaking at the Haryana Media Consultation on Female Foeticide)*

Every Genetic Counseling Centre, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic Clinic, Ultrasound Clinic and Imaging Centres shall send a complete report in respect of all pre-conception or pregnancy related procedures/ techniques/tests conducted by them in respect of each month by 5<sup>th</sup> day of the following month to the concerned Appropriate Authority.”.

Before conducting pre implantation genetic diagnosis, or any pre-natal diagnostic technique/test/procedure such as amniocentesis, chorionic villi biopsy,

foetoscopy, foetal skin or organ biopsy or cordocentesis, a written consent, as specified in Form G, in a language the person undergoing such procedure understands, shall be obtained from her/him.

Any person conducting ultrasonography/image scanning on a pregnant woman shall give a declaration on each report on ultrasonography/image scanning that he/she has neither detected nor disclosed the sex of foetus of the pregnant woman to any body. The pregnant woman shall before undergoing ultrasonography/image scanning declare that she does not want to know the sex of her foetus.



Every Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic Clinic, Ultrasound Clinic, Imaging Centre, nursing home, hospital, institute or any other place where any of the machines or equipments capable of performing any procedure, technique or test capable of pre-natal determination of sex or selection of sex before or after conception is used, shall afford all reasonable facilities for inspection of the place, equipment and records to the Appropriate Authority or to any other person authorised by the Appropriate Authority in this behalf for registration of such institutions, by whatever name called, under the Act, or for detection of misuse of such facilities or advertisement therefore or for selection of sex before



or after conception or for detection/disclosure of sex of foetus or for detection of cases of violation of the provisions of the Act in any other manner.



The Appropriate Authority or the officer authorized by it may seal and seize any ultrasound machine, scanner or any other equipment, capable of detecting sex of foetus, used by any organisation if the organisation has not got itself registered under the Act. These machines of the organisations may be released if such organisation pays penalty equal to five times of the registration fee to the Appropriate Authority concerned and gives an undertaking that it shall not undertake detection of sex of foetus or selection of sex before or after conception.”.

**Procedure for search and seizure.** - (1) The Appropriate Authority or any officer authorised in this behalf may enter and search at all reasonable times any Genetic Counselling Centre, Genetic Laboratory, Genetic Clinic, Imaging Centre or Ultrasound Clinic in the presence of two or more independent witnesses for the purposes of search and examination of any record, register, document, book, pamphlet, advertisement, or any other material object found therein and seal and seize the same if there is reason to believe that it may furnish evidence of commission of an offence punishable under the Act.



### **Group Suggestions**

On the day two of the consultation participants divided themselves in three groups and discussed/debated different concerns related to female foeticide, the PCPNDT Act and the effective implementation of the legal provisions to check and arrest female foeticide with help of media and other stakeholders. The groups outlined areas of action and strategies to combat the problem of female foeticide.

Three groups in which the participants worked on different areas requiring joint action are-

- 1. Implementation of PCPNDT Act and Regulations**
- 2. Civil Society, Media and Police partnership.**
- 3. Right based approach in photo journalism and sting operations.**

The suggestions extended by the groups are as follows:-

### **Group One**

### **Implementation of PCPNDT Act and Regulations:**

For the effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act and Regulations it is of great importance that the media and law enforcement join hands together. The important area where the two can join hands and work are-

1. To see if any unregistered centres are being operated in the area.
2. To keep watch whether qualified doctors (as provided by the PCPNDT Act) are employed and actually perform the ultrasonography.
3. Quacks and unregistered doctors performing ultrasonography must be identified, exposed and punished.
4. Form 'F' as provisioned in the PCPNDT Act must be traced and assessed and verified to random to check any violation of the provisions of the Act.
5. Training programmes regarding the provisions of the Act must be undertaken for different stakeholders and varied sections of the society, so that the society plays a vigilant role and informs the law enforcers in case of any violation of the provisions of the Act.
6. Wide publicity and intense public awareness must be done by means of meetings at different levels -
  - school

- mohalla/sector
- police
- non government organizations
- other civil society organizations

7. Continued Monitoring and vigilance must be sustained for the clinics engaged in sex detection or determination (selection). Such clinics must be identified and evidence must be gathered against them for effective action against them.
8. Media persons must maintain close touch and assisting relations with the local health authorities with an objective of achieving good results in effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act.



### **Group Two**

#### **Civil Society, Media and Police partnership:**

1. Commitment from all the stakeholders and from increasing number of people from the society is necessary to fight gender discrimination and sex selection or determination. The necessary transformation in society can be brought if each and every member commits itself towards the greater

cause of humanity, equality and justice. To begin with the members of group committed themselves that they will never discriminate on the basis of sex or have any sex based prejudices and never undergo PCPNDT test or adopt the technique for purpose of sex selection or female foeticide. It was felt that this expression of commitment should be spread to bring in more and more number of individuals.

2. Committing self and following it is a laudable act still it is not sufficient to fight the deep rooted malady. There is also need to boldly protest each and every incident of sex based discrimination at all level.
3. Media is a very important tool/ institution to spread the commitment and to protest against discrimination and injustice. But it is of great importance that media person and others who take this noble task in hand should first themselves rise above the societal stereotypes. This should be done in every piece of reporting and in every place of public discussions. Members should make effort to research and explore the reasons, see the reality and stand for justice. Each and every piece of reporting must be preceded by appropriate research where ever necessary before it is finalized and taken to public. The reports must expose and break the stereotypes, cultural wrongs and myths through.
4. Media persons themselves should develop adequate understanding and be well informed about the issues related to gender

justice and female foeticide. It is first necessary to recognize and admit our own limitations/weaknesses and make proper efforts to overcome them at individual level as well as groups level by developing community groups of like minded persons having all inclusive memberships and ensuing diverse participation. Reporting of incidences, which can have negative impact on ignorant or non-understanding public must be limited. If it is necessary to report such matters care must be taken that along with such stories, positive stories are also published so as to balance the impact of negative reports. Humanitarian and justice oriented actions of the people must also be highlighted.

5. Media though very powerful but had its own limitations and therefore, in alone and single handedly can not go too far in making difference. It is necessary that adequate attempts should be made to involve all stakeholders such as Anganwadi, Political Representatives, Community health providers etc. It is necessary to reach to the rural population and involve them in fight against gender injustice and female foeticide. All necessary efforts must be made for the same in a planned manner and adequate strategy must be developed to involve rural population.
6. Traditional methods of communication are very effective in rural areas and they attract audience across the sections of society. The way of communication in such media is also familiar to the communities and interests

them much more than some thing foreign. Therefore extensive use of traditional methods of communication such as Nukkad Natak, Flok songs, Ragini should be done for sensitizing the local and rural population towards gender justice and for fighting female foeticide. Cable TVs also caters to the viewer interests of local population, feed them with local news and remains very popular among the local population. The potential of cable TV networks should also be exploited to fight the problem of female foeticide. Films and television control a profound influence over society and many in society try to follow and imitate the actors from films and television. The help of popular actors from film/TV must be enrolled for giving messages as well as to create rolls which can be followed by the general population.

7. Religious leaders are other important stakeholders and play a very influential role in society. Many times due to ignorance or unawareness they are found in wrong foot promoting stereotypes and ill values unsuitable to contemporary ethical values and contrary to rights of general population. Efforts are necessary to involve the religious leaders and to advocate with them the concern in rightful manner without offending religious feelings and assimilating modern democratic values with religious beliefs and understandings.

8. Change follows from the top and trickles down to roots. Therefore top officials in police must be sensitized to affect attitudinal

changes in police force. Similarly other government official in various departments including the health department must be sensitized. In today's highly competitive and commercial media, multiple factors many times make the task of serious writing difficult for frontline journalist. Persons holding top posts in media houses must be sensitized so that they facilitate stories and reporting of front line journalists and guide them.

9. Police as protector of rights and maintainer of law and order has very important role to play in fighting gender violence and injustice. However, our police forces are dominated by males who come from the same background, where gender discrimination, violence and abuse of sex, are sustained through male dominance and feudalistic forces. Attempts are necessary to sensitise our police forces. Police can not effectively deliver if they remain compartmentalized and closed in their own system completely cut off from the society and its problems. It is necessary to involve police in social activities in areas of public concern especially problems which can lead to increased crimes and law and order problems. Good acts of the police officers done in benefit of society and to promote justice must be recognized and highlighted in stories/reports. Responsive attitude of police officers should also be highlighted so that the image of police improves and people see them as friendly and accessible.

10. Sensitization of government officials is also very important as their routine work of 9am to

5pm makes them aloof and ignorant of many problems of the society and they take their responsibilities in a cursory or routine manner. Sensitization programmes and workshops must be conducted and government officials must be invited to attend such programmes and interact with other stakeholders.

11. Female foeticide is a deeply ingrained problem, its roots are deep in the structures of society and it is merely a glimpse of wider problem of gender discrimination and injustice. To address the problem of female foeticide and gender discrimination commitment and conviction on part of stakeholders is needed to sensitise the general population, sustained efforts are necessary to change the mind set of the society. Dignity of human being irrespective of sex and honour of the person need to be promoted and assured. Only then we can there can be hope of justice, not only political and according to law but also with an element of compassion.



**Group Three**

**Right Based Approach in Photo Journalism and Sting Operations:**

Media has a very important role to play in stopping female foeticide and sex selection. The problem though mainly social but also has its legal aspects. Media attention to the problem can definitely prove of great use in both manners i.e. in transforming the values, changing mind setup of society with regard to women and in exposing the violation of legal provisions with respect to PCPNDT Act. The broad objectives of the media intervention are:-

1. **Inform and Sensitize:** Informing the general population about gender equality, discrimination, injustice, female foeticide, its ramifications, laws related and sensitizing people towards the problem.
2. **Change of mindset:** Changing of mind set of the society towards girls is a challenging task ahead in which media can play the most powerful role by challenging stereotypes.
3. **Value & worth creation:** creation of value and worth of women/girl in family, relations and society is another important task for media to be achieved through promotion of positive image and highlighting the importance of women.
4. **Expose:** exposing the violators of law and discrimination and prevalent injustice is finally another important task for media to break the silence and build the threshold pressure.

While changing the social values, promoting rights of women, enhancing gender and social justice remain the long term broad objectives of media intervention

but media can also intervene in following areas with respect to PCPNDT Act.

1. Clinics/ hospitals engaged in illegal activities.
2. Unauthorized centres performing sex selection and determination.
3. Individual doctors undertaking illegal activities.
4. Individuals/families/communities promoting stereotypes and gender discrimination and resorting to female foeticide.
5. Agents/illegal midwives / quacks catering to the willing persons in facilitating sex determination and conducting abortions.
6. Law enforcement, to buildup pressure to act swiftly and heavily and to highlight neglect of duty and expose illegal activities or collusion with law violators.

Media intervention to succeed will need some novel strategy away from the conventional method of reporting and narrating the incidents. Media needs to walk an extra mile by breaking its own pattern and buildup unconventional partnerships with targeted sections/groups. Following will be useful to make interventions effective:-

1. **Develop Relations with grass root groups/ institutions, involve them and ensure their active role-** Media can prove much effective by involving grass root women and community groups. It can extract real and

factual information through the groups can as well as use such groups/ institutions for affecting positive changes among the population with which such groups interact. Highlighting their hard work and appreciation for good work can prove very effective in motivating such groups and transforming the communities.

2. **Avoid Sensational stories:** Sensational stories affect the cause of women adversely, promote stereotypes and victimize women. It devalues and degrades woman and makes her a tool, a commodity and promotes injustice and exploitation. Sensational reporting makes woman weak, helpless and silent. Even if necessary to report for some reasons they must not be given priority and their reporting must remain low key reporting.
3. **Avoid glamorizing gender and sexual crimes:** Gender and Sexual crimes must not be glamorized by media, so that they do not cater to the prurient desires and interests of people.
4. **Advertise & Awareness:** Media must advertise the rights of women and victims of discrimination and gender/sexual crimes. It must inform people of the problems and make them understand the issues, the concerns, the law and the solutions.
5. **Expose vs. promote:** Media must not only expose the violators of the law but it must also promote the rights and positive image of women.

6. ***Do not only narrate:*** Media must not only narrate the incidents. It is important that they build their stories in the light of background issue related to gender, culture, religion etc. It must also go into the cause and effects of the happenings. Explore and write about the different forces of society those are responsible for such happenings. The stories must be capable of throwing open questions before the society.

However, in its reporting media should take a cautious approach in manner that it itself do not violate the rights of people. In its zeal to expose it must also take care not to compromise the safety and interest of people who are not guilty or who may take risk and volunteer to help media. Some of the precautions if taken will positively help media in its cause.

1. ***Secrecy of informants:*** The identity must be kept secret as far as possible so that they do not face any dangers or become unsafe. If the informants feel protected and out of danger they can provide much more information necessary for authentication of the facts, which will increase the credibility of report and to an extent will also solve the problem related to finding space for it. It would be a better option if the volunteer used for sting operations is not a local person but a outsider.
2. ***Hiding the identity of victims:*** Care must be taken to hide the identity of victims so that their rights are not violated, their identity remains secret and they do not get stigmatized. Media ethics must be strictly

followed while including the women in story. Their names must be changed and faces blackened or wrapped in photographs. Caricatures can be used as good alternatives to photographs. Such caricatures can also be used to give message with photographs in many situation may not be able to give.

3. ***Identity of accused or guilty woman:*** Identity of guilty women too must be protected and kept secret as her rights may get violated due to media expose and she may face not only stigma but also physical or moral harm due to public ire. In case of midwives assisting or causing illegal abortions focus can be on instruments and unhygienic conditions rather than the face of guilty. Photographs and name should be exposed only after conviction lest she/he might be acquitted by court but punished by media and public. It is necessary that prior to conviction, the status as accused must be made clear in the report/story.
4. ***Photographs of hospitals:*** When stories/report concerns a hospital it is necessary that one must avoid disclosing identity of hospital before conviction takes place for the hospital may be catering to wide range of service and it may give bad name to institution though only a individual might be responsible for the illegal act. It would be better to expose the doctor or any other person found committing rather than the entire institution. Doctor or persons not wearing their name may be exposed. Non display of mandatory notices in hospital premises may be exposed.





***(Ms Neelam Raj Sr Correspondent Times of India speaking at the Haryana Media Consultation) )***

**Ms Neelam Raaj , Sr Correspondent Times of India.** spoke on the Ramifications of Female Foeticide and said that she has done extensive reporting on the issue and said that her Research pointed to a much more serious repercussions to the Haryanvi society than which has been felt.

She said that Gender Laws need to be implemented in a much stricter way and efforts must be made to bridge the gender difference in the Society. She said that lot of questions needed to be answered about the status of women who are in a situation of Forced Marriages. There was an urgent need for the society to take a stand on such marriages and Trafficking of Women and children which is continuously on the rise. She said that what we are experiencing is just the Tip of the Ice berg and lot needed to be done She said that we media persons have a very important role to take and which we should religiously do. We have to educate the people about the ramifications of Female Foeticide so that a general awareness can be made .



***(Ms Sangeeta Mansharamani UNFPA at the Haryana Media Consultation on Female Foeticide)***

**Ms Sangeeta Mansharamani , UNFPA** who had been actively participating in the deliberations since the last two Days said that the aims for which the consultation was organised was to make partnership with each and everyone present here in the fight against Female Foeticide. She said that we all should join hands to fight this problem . She said that we all should strive at our personal levels to fight gender discrimination at all walks of our lives. She hoped that in the coming time all present would commit themselves to this cause.



***(Shri Ashish Gupta at the Haryana Media Consultation on Female Foeticide)***

**Ashish Gupta, Secretary , Media Coalition** while giving the Vote of Thanks said that the National



Media Coalition will continue its campaign on gender based violence and Female Foeticide with much vigour and enthusiasm . He welcomed all members of Haryana Media to join the coalition. He said that the present workshop was concerned with the creation of partnerships among different stakeholders and the media. The objective was to promote gender-sensitive rights-based .

He informed the Media Persons on the Media Coalition Website which ***www.mediacoalition.in***



कर्ण लेक पर प्रदेशस्तरीय पत्रकार सेमिनार 29-3-2007

## ‘कलमकार संवेदनाओं की खिड़की से झांकें’

करनाल, जागरण संवाद केंद्र : संवेदनाओं की झांकी से महिला शोषण और कन्या भ्रूण हत्या से जुड़े मसलों पर नजर दौड़ने की नसीहत कलमकारों को दी गई। कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकने के लिए पत्रकारों को अपनी लेखनी को जागरूकता लाने के लिए और पैना करने का आह्वान किया।

कर्ण लेक पर शक्ति वाहीनी संस्था, नेशनल मीडिया कोल्युशन और यूएनएफपीए संस्था द्वारा प्रदेश स्तरीय पत्रकार सेमिनार का आयोजन किया गया। सेमिनार में कन्या भ्रूण हत्या और महिला शोषण से जुड़े तमाम पक्षों पर खुलकर चर्चा की गई। सेमिनार में प्रदेश के 55 पत्रकार शिरकत करने पहुंचे। अतिरिक्त पुलिस महानिदेशक वी एन राय ने कन्या भ्रूण हत्या, बलात्कार, घरेलू हिंसा सहित महिला शोषण से जुड़े तमाम मामलों पर रिपोर्टिंग के स्तर पर आकर बात रखी। उन्होंने कहा कि लड़कियां हर क्षेत्र में आगे हैं। महिला को उनके अधिकार दिलाने के लिए अलग-अलग स्तर पर आंदोलन भी चलते आए हैं। इसके चलते महिलाओं की उपस्थिति हर क्षेत्र में बढ़ी है। विडंबना इस बात की है कि महिलाओं की उपस्थिति तो बढ़ी है, लेकिन उनकी स्थिति वैसी की वैसी ही है। उन्होंने सेमिनार में आए पत्रकारों से समाज में महिलाओं की स्थिति को लेकर कई सवालों के जवाब पूछे थे। पत्रकारों के लिखित जवाबों के साथ उन्होंने अपनी बात आगे बढ़ाई। सवाल-जवाब को आधार बनाकर उन्होंने कहा कि यह कहा जाना गलत है कि औरत ही औरत की दुश्मन है। जबकि यह भी गलत है कि घर-परिवार में



करनाल के कर्ण लेक पर आयोजित प्रदेश स्तरीय पत्रकार सेमिनार में मंचासीन एडीजीपी वीएन राय सहित अन्य अतिथि।

जागरण

ही लड़कियां ज्यादा सुरक्षित रहती हैं। महिलाओं को संपत्ति का अधिकार देने की बात आने पर भी चुप्पी साध ली जाती है। स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं विभाग के निदेशक अविनाश शर्मा ने विभाग द्वारा कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकने के लिए किए जा रहे प्रयासों के बारे में बताया। आईएमए से आए डा. प्रवीण शर्मा ने कन्या भ्रूण हत्या के खिलाफ सामूहिक प्रयास करने का आह्वान किया।

पत्रकार जयशंकर गुप्ता ने महिला शोषण

से जुड़े मसलों पर अलग-अलग ढंग से बेहतरीन रिपोर्टिंग करने के बारे में बताया। पत्रकार मऊआ चौधरी ने कहा कि महिला शोषण से जुड़ी खबरों को एक दूसरे से सांझा का संदेश दिया। इस दौरान यूएनएफए संस्था के डा. फारूख, यूनिफेम से अर्चना तमांग, शक्ति वाहीनी संस्था के निदेशक रविकांत, एंटी ट्रैफिकिंग आफिसर ऋषिकांत, शक्ति वाहीनी के प्रदेश संयोजक राज सिंह चौधरी आदि उपस्थित रहे।



# जागरण सिटी

30 मार्च 2007

## भ्रूण हत्या करने वालों पर होगी कड़ी निगाह

अश्विनी शर्मा, करनाल

शक्ति वाहिनी संस्था ने कन्या भ्रूण हत्या पर सजगता से कदम उठाने की ठानी है। संस्था प्रदेश में सोशल मैपिंग के जरिये कन्या भ्रूण हत्या करने वालों की खबर लेगी तो साथ ही महिला शोषण से जुड़े मामलों में लापरवाही बरतने वाले अधिकारियों पर सूचना के अधिकार को वार के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा। कन्या भ्रूण हत्या के प्रति लोगों को जागरूक करने के लिए प्रदेश भर में कला जत्था चलाने की योजना भी है।

कर्ण लोक पर शक्ति वाहिनी संस्था द्वारा आयोजित प्रदेश स्तरीय पत्रकार सेमिनार के समापन पर पत्रकारों को कन्या भ्रूण हत्या से जुड़े तमाम कानूनी पक्षों के बारे में जानकारी दी गई। संस्था के एंटी ट्रेफिकिंग आफिसर ऋषिकांत ने बताया कि कन्या भ्रूण हत्या पर लगाम कसने के लिए सोशल मैपिंग नामक रणनीति के तहत काम किया जाएगा। इस योजना को सिर चढ़ाने के लिए नेहरू युवा केंद्र, राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजना व कालेज के युवाओं का सहयोग लिया जाएगा। इनकी टीम बनाकर क्षेत्र बांट दिया जाएगा। यह टीम अपने अपने क्षेत्रों में उन महिलाओं से जाकर मिलेगी, जो गर्भवती हैं। प्रसव से पहले यह टीम इन महिलाओं से मिलना-जुलना जारी रखेगी। इस बीच, किसी महिला का गर्भ गिर जाता है तो उसकी जांच की जाएगी। अगर मामला कन्या भ्रूण हत्या का निकला तो कानूनी कार्रवाई का प्रावधान भी है। उन्होंने कहा कि कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकने के लिए प्रदेश में कला जत्था भी निकाला जाएगा। यह जत्था जगह-जगह जाकर नुकड़ सभाओं व गोष्ठियों के माध्यम से लोगों को कन्या भ्रूण हत्या के खिलाफ जागरूक करेगा। एंटी

- शक्ति वाहिनी संस्था सोशल मैपिंग के जरिये रखेगी कन्या भ्रूण हत्या करने वालों पर नजर
- संस्था हीलाहवाली करने वाले अधिकारियों पर सूचना के अधिकार से करेगी वार

### जन आंदोलन खड़ा करने का संकल्प लिया

शक्ति वाहिनी संस्था द्वारा आयोजित प्रदेश स्तरीय सेमिनार में कन्या भ्रूण हत्या रोकने और समाज को जागरूक करने को लेकर विचार विमर्श किया गया। पत्रकारों के अलग-अलग समूह ने इस विषय पर मंथन किया। पत्रकारों ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकने के लिए इसकी पीड़ा को समझना जरूरी है। कन्या भ्रूण हत्या के कारणों को खिन्नित करने की जरूरत भी है। सेमिनार में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की प्रो. गीतांजलि व पत्रकार नीलम राज ने अपनी बात रखी।

ट्रेफिकिंग आफिसर ऋषिकांत ने कहा कि महिला शोषण से जुड़े मामलों में हीलाहवाली करने वाले अधिकारियों के खिलाफ सूचना के अधिकार को वार के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा। पूरे प्रदेश में इस अधिकार का इस्तेमाल कर महिला शोषण से जुड़े मामलों को लेकर लापरवाही बरतने वाले अधिकारियों से जवाब-तलबी की जाएगी।

# दैनिक भास्कर

भारत का सबसे तेज़ बढ़ता अखबार

30 मार्च 2007

## भ्रूण हत्या के विरुद्ध प्रदेश में चलेगा कला जत्था

भास्कर न्यूज, करनाल

शक्तिवाहिनी के प्रेस प्रवक्ता ऋषिकांत ने बताया कि कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकने के लिए लिंग असमानता के प्रति लोगों को जागरूक करना आवश्यक है। इसके लिए हरियाणा के सभी जिलों में नवंबर से जनवरी तक विशेष कला जलसा कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया जाएगा। साथ ही सोशल मैपिंग का कार्य किया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि हरियाणवी रागिनी के जरिए गांव-गांव चौपालों पर एनसीसी, एनएसएस, नेहरू युवा केंद्र, स्वयं सहायता समूहों, व ग्राम सरपंच तथा पंचायत के सदस्यों के सहयोग से लोगों को भ्रूण हत्या के परिणामों व नारी अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक किया जाएगा। शक्तिवाहिनी गर्भवती महिलाओं की निगरानी के लिए, उन्हें भ्रूणहत्या के लिए हतोत्साहित करने के लिए गांव में सोशल मैपिंग का काम करेगी। जिसमें सरकारी स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों के अतिरिक्त आंगनबाड़ी व अन्य ग्रामीण विकास के अधिकारियों के सहयोग से उन्हें नियमित उपचार व अन्य सुविधाएं प्रदान की जाएंगी। ऐसा अंदेशा होने पर कि कोई परिवार लिंग परीक्षण कर रहा है, उसे इसके लिए रोकने का प्रयास किया जाएगा। शक्तिवाहिनी करनाल जिले में सूचना के अधिकार को हथियार के रूप में इस्तेमाल कर जिला प्रशासन से कन्या भ्रूण हत्या के

खिलाफ उसे ज्यादा जिम्मेदार व लापरवाहियों के प्रति सावधान करने का भी काम करेगी।

### मीडियाकर्मियों ने ली शपथ

कर्ण लेक पर महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ मीडिया की सक्रियता विषय कार्यशाला में दूसरे दिन भी मीडियाकर्मियों को मुद्दे पर गंभीर बनाने की कोशिश की गई। इस दौरान पत्रकारों व आयोजकों ने अपने अनुभव बांटे। शक्तिवाहिनी व यूएनएफपीए के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में आयोजित इस राज्यस्तरीय कार्यशाला के अंतिम दिन राज्यभर के विभिन्न जिलों से आए पत्रकारों ने वरिष्ठ मीडियाकर्मियों के साथ गंभीर चर्चा की। इस दौरान घटनाओं की रिपोर्टिंग के साथ किन बातों का खास ख्याल रखा जाए, इस बाबत भी जागरूक किया गया। यह भी जानने की कोशिश की गई कि मीडियाकर्मियों किस तरह चाहते हैं कि इन मुद्दों को लेकर जनता के बीच जाया जाए। इस दौरान इस बात को सबने स्वीकार किया महिला हिंसा से संबंधित समाचार संकलन करते समय यह भी ध्यान में रखा जाए कि इस गुनाह की सजा क्या हो सकती है और कितना दंड दिया जा सकता है। महिलाओं को जब तक समानता का अधिकार नहीं मिलेगा तब तक कन्या भ्रूण हत्या नहीं रुकेगी।



# आमर उजाला

30 मार्च 2007

## महिलाओं की खरीद फरोख्त का विरोध

करनाल। बच्चे व औरतें गुम होने के अलावा विभिन्न प्रदेशों से महिलाएं खरीद कर लाए जाने के मामले को लेकर सामाजिक संगठन शक्तिवाहिनी ने समाज कल्याण विभाग को पूरी तरह से घेरने की योजना तैयार कर ली है। संस्था ने बिगड़ते लिंग अनुपात के कारणों की तह तक पहुंचने की पहल करने का निर्णय भी लिया है।

संस्था द्वारा आयोजित दो दिवसीय शिविर के समापन के मौके पर संगठन के प्रवक्ता ऋषिकांत ने पत्रकारों को बताया कि उनकी संस्था धूप हत्या पर अंकुश लगाए जाने के लिए भी विशेष अभियान चलाएगी। एक चौकाने वाली जानकारी देते हुए उन्होंने बताया कि हरियाणा में अविवाहित युवकों की तादाद बढ़ती जा रही है और असम, बंगाल व मध्यप्रदेश आदि क्षेत्रों से महिलाओं को खरीद कर लाया जा रहा है। पिछले कुछ सालों में उनके संस्थान ने प्रदेश भर से 65 ऐसी युवतियों को मुक्त करवाया है जिन्हें मात्र पांच से छह हजार रुपए में खरीद कर लाया गया था। अन्य प्रदेशों से लाई जा रही इन महिलाओं का न केवल दैहिक शोषण

### समस्या

प्रदेश में अविवाहित युवकों की तादाद में बढ़ोत्तरी

होता है बल्कि उन्हें समाज में सम्मान से जीने का अधिकार नहीं मिलता। शादी के नाम पर पैसे दे कर लाई गई महिलाओं और उनके बच्चों को कानूनी वारिश होने का अधिकार भी नहीं मिल पाता। महिलाओं के शोषण के मामलों में समाज कल्याण अधिकारी भी सही आंकड़े उपलब्ध करवाने में आनाकानी करते हैं। उनकी संस्था प्रदेश भर के विभिन्न जिलों में लापता बच्चों अथवा तस्करी के माध्यम से लाई जा रही महिलाओं के आंकड़ों के लिए आवेदन कर चुके हैं, लेकिन सरकार आज तक यह आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं करा पाई। सूचना के अधिकार की अवहेलना को लेकर उनकी संस्था शीघ्र ही समाज कल्याण विभाग के खिलाफ याचिका भी दायर करेगी।





प्रदेश के एडीजीपी वी. एन. राय कर्ण लेक पर महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ मीडिया की जागरूकता विषय पर आयोजित सैमीनार में संबोधित करते हुए।

# महिलाओं की स्थिति जस की तस : वीएन राय

## महिला हिंसा पर आयोजित सैमीनार शुरू

करनाल, 28 मार्च (ब्यूरो) : प्रदेश के एडीजीपी वी. एन. राय ने कहा है कि महिलाओं की उपस्थिति भले ही बढ़ गई है मगर उनकी स्थिति अब भी जस की तस बनी हुई है। महिलाओं की स्थिति में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ जो चिंता का विषय है। वह आज कर्ण लेक पर महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ मीडिया की जागरूकता विषय पर आयोजित एक सैमीनार में बतौर मुख्य अतिथि बोल रहे थे। उन्होंने भ्रूणहत्या को गहन विषय मानते हुए कहा कि जब तक इस मामले में पूरे समाज को सचेत नहीं किया जाता तब तक इसका असर होने वाला नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस मामले में मीडिया अहम भूमिका निभा सकता है। उन्होंने यह कहा कि भ्रूणहत्या के खिलाफ मुहिम चलाना न केवल जरूरी है, बल्कि निकट भविष्य में इस बहस को आगे ले जाने की भी सख्त जरूरत है।

उन्होंने वहां मौजूद मीडिया के लोगों को विभिन्न प्रकाशित हुई खबरों पर भी विशेष टिप्स दी और कहा कि मीडिया खबरों को तोड़-मोड़ कर प्रस्तुत न करे। उन्होंने इस मामले में कई उदाहरण भी पेश किए। उन्होंने यह स्वीकार किया कि महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ जागरूक होने की जरूरत है मगर अभी इसमें काफी पड़ाव है जिन्हें पार करना होगा। इस मौके पर संवाददाता जय शंकर ने इस मामले में प्रिंट मीडिया तथा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया की भूमिका पर भी कई सवाल खड़े कर दिए। उन्होंने कहा कि जिस तरह से समाज और पत्रकारिता विकसित हो रहा है उसमें चुनौतियां बढ़ती ही जा रही हैं।

पत्रकार इन घटनाओं को कैसे प्रकाशित करें? यह एक बड़ा विषय है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह भी सोच का विषय है कि अखबारों के जरिए जो कुछ परोसा जा रहा है क्या यही पत्रकारिता है? या फिर जो हमारे आसपास घटित हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि हैरानी की

**मुख्य बिंदु**  
**मीडिया की भूमिका पर उठे कई सवाल**

बात है कि अभिषेक और ऐश की शादी कब होगी? कब शनि का साया टलेगा? ऐश कौन सा लहंगा पहनेगी? नाग-नागिन के साथ कब फेरे लेगी? और किसके पीछे पड़ेगी? क्या यही खबरें पाठकों को संतुष्ट कर रही हैं। यह आत्मचिंतन का विषय है। उन्होंने कहा कि हरियाणा कभी दूध-दही का खाना की कहावत चरितार्थ करता था लेकिन अब यहां शराब खाना खुल गया है। यहां रोजगार नहीं है। खेती के अवसर समाप्त होते जा रहे हैं। लड़कियों की शादी के लिए दहेज की मांग बढ़ती जा रही है। लड़कियों की मांग बढ़ती जा रही है। आखिर फिर शादी कहां से होगी?

हरियाणा और पंजाब में लिंगानुपात दिन-प्रतिदिन गिरता जा रहा है। रोज खबरों में देखने को मिलता है कि बच्चों के शव बरामद हो रहे हैं। मध्य प्रदेश

में बच्चों के नरकंकाल मिले हैं, निठारी कांड ने सभी को हिलाकर रख दिया है। यह समस्या अब मुंह बाए खड़ी है। मेवात में लड़कियों की तस्करी लाई जा रही है। नौजवान शादी के लिए मारा-मारा फिर रहा है। पश्चिम बंगाल, झारखंड तथा अन्य राज्यों से लड़कियों को लाया तो जाता है मगर उन्हें बीवी नहीं बनाया जाता। उन्होंने कहा कि शादी का पंजीकरण नहीं हो पाता। अब तो वक्त आने लगा है कि एक युवती द्रोपदी का रोल निभाए। उन्होंने कहा कि पत्रकार इस मामले को गंभीरता से लें। यदि ऐसे ही भ्रूणहत्या का सिलसिला जारी रहा तो हम किसे बीवी और किसे मां कहेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि इलेक्ट्रॉनिक चैनल क्रिकेट, हास्य तथा अन्य खबरों को लेकर सनसनी फैलाने में लगे हैं। झूठी टीआरपी तय की जाती है, मगर उन लड़कियों का क्या होगा जो पढ़ नहीं पाती और उन्हें बेच दिया जाता है। यह बात पत्रकार साधियों को सोचनी है। उन्होंने कहा कि पत्रकार अपनी कलम को हथियार बनाकर समाज को पूरी तरह से जागरूक करें। यदि एक युवती की अच्छी खबर लिखी जाए तो पत्रकारिता धन्य हो जाएगी। इस अवसर पर दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी की प्रोफेसर रैना, हरियाणा स्वास्थ्य विभाग के निदेशक डा. अविनाश शर्मा, प्रोफेसर अचना, शक्ति वाहिनी के रवि कांत, ऋषि कांत तथा वहां मौजूद अन्य मीडिया के लोगों ने भी व्यापक चर्चा की। यह सैमीनार दो दिन तक आयोजित होगा जो भ्रूणहत्या तथा महिलाओं की खरीद-फरोख्त विषय पर आधारित है।



# भ्रूणहत्या के खिलाफ सामूहिक प्रयास जरूरी : राय

सहारा न्यूज ब्यूरो

करनाल, 28 मार्च।

नेशनल मीडिया कोलैप्शन, यूएनएफपीए व शक्ति वाहिनी के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में कर्ण झील पर भ्रूण हत्या व महिलाओं की दशा पर दो दिवसीय संगोष्ठी का शुभारंभ किया गया। इस अवसर पर मीडिया की भूमिका को विशेष रूप से केन्द्रित किया गया और मीडियाकर्मियों को मार्गदर्शन भी दिया गया।

प्रदेश के अतिरिक्त पुलिस महानिदेशक वीएन राय ने भ्रूणहत्या पर लोगों को जागरूक किये जाने का आह्वान किया। उन्होंने कहा कि भ्रूण हत्या अपराध है और लड़कियों की संख्या घटने से समाज में अस्थिरता आएगी। कन्या भ्रूण हत्या न हो इसके लिए हम सबको सामूहिक प्रयास करने होंगे और समाज के हर व्यक्ति को उस दिशा में अपना कर्तव्य निभाने के लिए

हत्या के चलते ही दूसरे राज्यों से हरियाणा व पंजाब में लड़कियों की तस्करी हो रही है। झारखंड पश्चिमी बंगाल, बिहार, छत्तीसगढ़, उत्तरप्रदेश व मध्यप्रदेश से दलाल गरीब लड़कियों को यहां काम दिलाने के बहाने ले आते हैं और हरियाणा-पंजाब में उन्हें ऐसे लोगों को बेच दिया जाता है जिनकी किन्हीं कारणों से शादी नहीं हो पती।

दूसरे राज्यों से लड़कियां पहले दिल्ली लायी जाती हैं। शादी हो जाने के कारण न तो वे वापस जा पाती हैं और न ही उन्हें सामाजिक हक ही मिल पाता है। प्रदेश के प्रत्येक गांव में ऐसी चार से पांच लड़कियां रह रही हैं। कुछ लड़कियों को यहां घरों में काम के लिए भी बेच दिया जाता है।

दूसरे राज्यों से काम के बहाने लाई गयी लड़कियों को जब कहीं लावारिस हालत में पकड़ कर नारी निकेतन व अन्य संस्थाओं में रखा

हुए अनेक दूसरे राज्यों की यहां पकड़ी गयी लड़कियों के पते मालूम करके उन्हें उनके घर तक पहुंचाया है।

अकेले करनाल से अब तक करीब एक दर्जन ऐसी लड़कियों को उनके घर पहुंचाया गया है। मीडियाकर्मियों को इस दिशा में सक्रीय करने के लिए वर्कशाप का आयोजन किया गया है जबकि इससे पहले गोवा, देहरादून, राजस्थान व चंडीगढ़ में आयोजन किये जा चुके हैं।

यूनियन की प्रतिनिधि अर्चना तमंग ने कहा लड़कियों की कमी लोगों को सुनहरे सपने व पैसे देकर उनकी लड़कियों को यहां लाया जा रहा है। ऐसी कम उम्र की लड़कियों को जबरन विवाह करके उनका शारीरिक शोषण किया जाता है।

झारखंड जैसे राज्य में एक परिवार में ज्यादा बच्चे होते हैं। और गरीबी के कारण वे लोग दलालों के

भ्रूणहत्या व महिलाओं की दशा पर संगोष्ठी

को बेचा जा रहा है।

स्वास्थ्य विभाग प्रदेश की प्रतिनिधि डा. अविनाश शर्मा ने बताया कि कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को लेकर सरकार द्वारा अनेक ऐसी योजनाएं चलाई गयी हैं जिनसे लड़कियों के जन्म को बढ़ावा मिले।

लिंग जांच पर रोक लगा कर सभी अल्ट्रासाउंड केन्द्रों का पंजीकरण जरूरी किया गया है। कई जिलों में एक हजार लड़कों के मुकाबले लड़कियों की संख्या संतोष जनक है कि जिलों में यह अनुपात ज्यादा है वहां ऐसे प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं कि लड़कियों की संख्या बढ़े।

इस अवसर पर विभिन्न राज्यों से आये मीडियाकर्मों, विभिन्न संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधि व



# ‘महिलाओं की स्थिति नहीं, उपस्थिति बदली’



■ कर्ण लेक स्थित कांग्रेस हाल में शक्तिवाहिनी द्वारा कन्या भ्रूण हत्या पर आयोजित मीडिया कार्यशाला में उपस्थित लोग।—भास्कर

## कार्यशाला

इस राज्यस्तरीय कार्यशाला में बतौर मुख्य अतिथि एडीजीपी वीएन राय पहुंचे थे

उन्होंने कहा कि मीडिया को लोगों का नज़रिया बदलने के लिए खुद के नज़रिए को बदलना होगा



■ कन्या भ्रूण हत्या पर आयोजित मीडिया कार्यशाला में बुधवार को जानकारी देते वीएन राय व अन्य।—भास्कर



## कर्ण लेक पर महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ दो दिवसीय मीडिया कार्यशाला शुरू।

भास्कर न्यूज. करनाल

कर्ण लेक पर महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ मीडिया की सक्रियता विषय पर दो दिवसीय कार्यशाला शुरू हुई। शक्तिवाहिनी व यूएनएफपीए के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में आयोजित इस राज्यस्तरीय कार्यशाला में बतौर मुख्य अतिथि एडीजीपी वीएन राय ने कहा कि नई सदी में महिलाओं की उपस्थिति सभी क्षेत्रों में बढ़ी है, लेकिन उसकी स्थिति में कोई बदलाव नहीं आया है। आज भी महिला को वस्तु के रूप में देखा जाता है। पतिता उद्धार से नारी चेतना व महिला सशक्तिकरण तक की चर्चा करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि महिलाओं को लेकर राजनीति तक में आरक्षण की मांग भले उठ रही है, लेकिन अभी ढेरो पड़ाव तय करने हैं।

एडीजीपी वीएन राय ने कहा कि मीडिया और पुलिस की भूमिका काफी अहम है, लेकिन इनका नज़रिया अब भी तंग है जिसे साफ करने की जरूरत है। उन्होंने उम्मीद जताई कि कार्यशाला महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ मीडिया कर्मियों के मानसिक स्तर व समझ में वृद्धि करेगी। कन्या भ्रूण हत्या बंद हो जाएगी तो लिंगानुपात ठीक हो जाएगा। लेकिन अभी भी लड़कियों को लड़कों के बराबर का दर्जा नहीं दिया जा रहा। अपना व्यक्तिगत अनुभव सुनाते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि महिला कालेज पर खड़े पुलिसकर्मी से पूछा कि यहां क्या ड्यूटी देते हो, उसने तपाक कहा कि जब वह किसी लड़की

को मोटरसाइकिल पर बिठाते लड़के को देखता है तो तत्काल उन्हें पकड़ कर पूछताछ करता है। क्या किसी लड़की लड़के का मोटरसाइकिल पर बैठना जुर्म है?

मीडिया पर तंज करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि शीर्षक 'भाई ने की अवैध संबंधों की वजह से बहन की हत्या' की चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि क्या अवैध संबंध जुर्म है या हत्या किया जाना। यह हेडिंग एक तरह से भाई के अपराध को जस्टीफाई करता दिखता है? मीडिया को लोगों का नज़रिया बदलने के लिए खुद के नज़रिए को बदलना होगा। इस अवसर पर वरिष्ठ पत्रकार जयशंकर गुप्त ने मीडियाकर्मियों का आह्वान करते हुए कहा कि उन्हें समाज कल्याण की दिशा में गंभीरता से सोचना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि इस दिशा में एक प्रयास समाज को नई दिशा प्रदान कर सकता है। कार्यक्रम में दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की प्रोफेसर एससी रायना, स्वास्थ्य निदेशक हरियाणा डा. अविनाश शर्मा, आईएमए के प्रोफेसर वी गर्ग, यूनीफेम की क्षेत्रीय संयोजक अर्चना तमांग, यूएनएसपीए की संगीता मानसा रमानी व डा. फारूख ने भी अपना विचार व्यक्त किया। कार्यक्रम के दौरान 'कलियों को खिलने दो' शीर्षक का जितेंद्र सिंह का कविता संकलन व लापता शीर्षक से भारत में प्रतिकूल शिशुलिंग अनुपात का चित्रांकन पत्रिका मीडिया कर्मियों में वितरित की गई। हरियाणा भर के मीडियाकर्मियों ने वर्कशाप में शिरकत की। शक्तिवाहिनी के कार्यकारी निदेशक रविकांत, प्रेस सचिव ऋषिकांत, जिलाध्यक्ष राजसिंह चौधरी व उनकी पूरी टीम मौजूद थी।

## **Guests and Speakers**

1. Mohuya Chaudhari , Associate Editor NDTV /Chairperson, National Media Coalition.
2. Archana Tamang , UNIFEM
3. Farookh UNFPA
4. Ashish Gupta , Asomiya Pratidin / Secretary, National Media Coalition.
5. Jai Shankar Gupta , Sr Correspondent Dainik Hindustan
6. Neelam Raj , Sr Correspondent Times Of India
7. Rajesh Chauhan , Dainik Jagraan
8. Professor SC Raina , Campus Law Centre, Delhi University
9. Shri Vikas Narain Rai, ADGP Haryana
10. Dr Gitanjali Nain , Faculty of Law , Delhi University
11. Jitendra Singh ,Secretary , SANNADH
12. Ms Sangeeta Mansharamani, UNFPA
13. Dr Bansal , Civil Hospital Karnal
14. Dr Garg , President Haryana Chapter of the Indian Medical Association
15. Dr Avinash Sharma , DG Health Services Haryana
16. P K Suman , Prabhat Khabar Delhi
17. Kamal Kumar Pandey , Advocate Supreme Court of India

## **Participants**

1. Rajesh Bhati Dainik Jagran Nuhu
2. Jagdeep Singh Dainik Bhaskar , Hodal
3. Srender Singh Dinik Tribune Taurau
4. Sukumar , Legal Correspondent
5. Sewa Singh Hari Bhoomi , Yamunanagar
6. Ankur Maheshwari,CFIB, Jagadhari
7. Girjesh Shukla , Free Lance , Delhi
8. Ritu Bharadwaj, Star News Sansani
9. Shailendra Jain, Punjab Kesri Karnal
10. Rajinder Chauhan , Rashtriya Sahara, Panipat
11. Sunny Chauhan , Dainik Jagran Panipat
12. Sandip Khurana , Dainik Jagran Yamunanagar
13. Rajeev Sharma , Dainik Bhaskar ,Karnal
14. Mohit Kumar , Amar Ujala Ambala
15. Deepak Behl Ambala Dainik Jagran

16. PR Nath , Malyalam Manorma
17. Devender Gandhi, Abh Abhi News Panipat
18. Ashwani , Dainik Jagran , Karnal
19. Ravi Kumar ,Karnal Tribune
20. Rashba Singh Jind Dainik Jagran
21. Anita Singh NDTV Stringer Correspondent Karnal
22. Gurmit Singh Ambala
23. Amrita Dhaliwal , Tribune Chandigarh
24. Sangeeta Johal Hindustan Times Chandigarh
25. Maninder Hunjan , Hunjan Charitable Trust
26. Harish Chandra, Punjab Kesri , Kaithal
27. Sham Lal Free Lance Journalists
28. Raman Malhota Advocate Karnal
29. Megha Thakore DD News
30. Sudha Pandey DD News
31. Vikas Sukheja , Rashtriya Sahara
32. Manoj Thakur, Dainik Bhaskar
33. Arvind Chauhan Photo Journalists Amar Ujala Karnal
34. Anoop Jha Panipat Dainik Bhaskar Panipat
35. Rishi Kumar Dainik Jagran Karnal
36. Ishwar Nassir Karnal
37. Jitendra Bawa , CFIB Jind
38. Devinder Gandhi , Punjab Kesri Karnal
39. Nain Singh , Dainik Jagran Faridabad
40. Sarita Police Women Helpline Karnal
41. Balwinder Police Women Helpline Karnal
42. Lokendra Kaushik Hindustan Ballabgarh
43. Sanjay Singh Hari Bhoomi Palwal
44. Batesh Thakur Dainik Jagran Jhajjar
45. Rajeev Tiwari , Hindustan Bhiwani
46. Susheel Bala Dagar
47. SS Chauhan Jind Dainik Hindustan
48. Ravi Kant Executive Director Shakti Vahini
49. Nishi Kant Director Programmes Shakti Vahini
50. Raj Singh Choudhury Shakti Vahini Karnal
51. Rishi Kant , Coordinator National Media Coalition
52. Monish Kumar , Documentation ,Shakti Vahini
53. Balram Yadav , Office Coordination Shakti Vahini.

54. Neelam Shakti Vahini Assandh

55. Aarati Shakti Vahini Assandh