# Report on

One Day District Level Workshop of Elected Women Representatives
On

"Preventing Gender Biased Sex Selection"



Programme venue: DRDA Hall, Dhanbad, Jharkhand

Date: 24th Aug, 2013

Presented by:

Shramajivi Mahila Samity, Jharkhand

Documented by: Sweta Kumari

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#### **Background:**

The 21st century has witnessed a great rise in development around the world. Communications and scientific research are developing at a rapid pace. The world is moving toward great change in culture and lifestyle. Gender equality is becoming common in many places, and girls are achieving heights once thought not possible. However, even as the world is moving toward progress, the age-old social evil of female infanticide still shows its ugly face in developing countries such as India.

The pre-dominantly patriarchal, social, cultural and religious set up based on the foundation that the family line runs through a male has contributed extensively to the secondary status of women in India. This has led to strong desire to avoid the birth of a female child in the family resulting in decline in the child sex ratio at an alarming rate.

The sex ratio is an indicator which describes the number of women per 1000 men for a given population. The child sex ratio describes the ratio of girls to boys in the age group of 0-6 years. The sex ratio of a given population is also used as a strong indicator to ascertain social health. In the developed societies where female and male enjoy equal status, the women usually outnumber men. The adverse sex ratios (where female are lesser than male) not only indicate poor social health, but also a barrier in attaining sustainable social development.

As per the census data of Jharkhand of 2001, the child sex ratio in the state was 966 girls per 1000 boys which further declined to 943 girls per 1000 boys in 2011. In 2001, the national average was 927 girls per 1000 boys which further declined to 914 girls per 1000 boys in 2011. The fact that the decline is seen more in the urban areas than in the rural areas in the state is another threat for the people here.

In 2001, the ratio in the urban area was 973 girls per 1000 boys and in the rural area it was 904 girls per 1000 boys. In 2011, the ratio in the rural area was 952 girls per 1000 boys and in the urban areas it was 904 girls per 1000 boys.

Some of the worst-hit districts in the state in relation to the child sex ratio are Bokaro with 912 girls per 1000 boys, Dhanbad with 917 girls per 1000 boys, East Singhbhum with 922 girls per 1000 boys, Hazaribag with 924 girls per 1000 boys and Ramgarh with 926 girls per 1000 boys girldhi 934 . The variations among districts clearly indicate prevalence of Sex Selective eliminations.

An Act PC&PNDT *ACT NO.* 57 *OF 1994* to provide for the prohibition of sex selection, before or after conception, and for regulation of prenatal diagnostic techniques for the purposes of detecting genetic abnormalities or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of their misuse for sex determination leading to female foeticide; and, for matters connected therewith or Incidental thereto.

#### Rationale:

The Act was enacted in 1994 but if we see its implementation's status then that is zero, from 1994 and after amendment (2002) how many states are actively following the provisions of PCPNDT Act. Sex ratio and child sex ratio is falling down day by day while we have PCPNDT Act. So now we need to orient ourselves, and need to think about the women and girls' societal status. We know that we can't imagine world without girls/women. So Today we organised the programme for:-

- ➤ To Orient ourselves about PCPNDT Act.
- To change society's mentality and old concept towards girl and boy child.
- To educate and aware the society that how today falling the sex ratio and child sex ratio (0-6 years age group) and how we can help to minimize and equalize this ratio.



#### **Introduction:**

The State Commission for Women, Jharkhand in collaboration with UN-Women, organised a **One Day District Level Workshop of Elected Women Representatives On "Preventing Gender Biased Sex Selection"** In five districts Giridhi, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Hazaribag, Deoghar. In Dhandad workshop was conducted on 24th Aug 2013 at DRDA Hall, Dhanbad, Jharkhand. Dhanbad follows on 5<sup>th</sup> position as per the decline in sex ratio 0-6 age group. It was found in 2001 – 951 & in 2011 – 917.



The district was split into two sub - divisions - Dhanbad Sadar and Baghmara. The former incorporated 6 blocks , while the latter had four and together they enclosed 30 Nagar Palikas, 228 Panchayats and 1654 villages . The then vastness of the district called for two police headquarters , based at Bokaro and Dhanbad respectively. Meanwhile, the district as its stands today , has only one sub-division called the Dhanbad Sadar. There are presently, 8 blocks here viz. Jharia , Baghmara, Dhanbad, Nirsa, Govindpur, Baliapur, Tundi, and Topchanchi. The blocks in turn have 181 panchayats and 1348 villages. There are 100850 acres of hillocks and 56454 acres of forests. It is about 500-1000 feet above Sea level. Its soil is , by and large lateritic in nature. The total population as per the census 2011 is 2682662.

After 32 years in 2010 Jharkhand government conducted panchayti election and 50% seats were reserved for women and Dhanbad from Dhanbad district more than 50% women won the election and holding their post.

Seeing the above situation the state women commission of Jharkhand decided to build capacity among the women representative through one day workshop on this vital issue "Preventing Gender Biased Sex Selection" in Dhanbad district.

The Goal of the work - the aim of the workshop to capacity building of Elected Women Representative of Panchayati Raj Institution (EWR-PRI) at district level.

#### Objectives of the Conference Cum Workshop On PCPNDT Act 1994:-

- ➤ To aware the stakeholders that why we need the PCPNDT Act.
- ➤ To aware the stakeholders about the PCPNDT Act 1994 and about its provision, authorities (who have the power to implement the act & can monitor, inspect & stop these malpractices) and punishments for this crime..
- ➤ To aware the society about the effect of gender selection on pregnant women and educating the society about equality in gender.
- Panchayat, Sahiya should participate in taking ahead girl child towards their rights.
- > By providing the girl child their right It will prove an example for the society.

Registration was made of all the participants, Media Person, Delegates, and Resource Persons.

## INAUGRAL SESSION:1ST

The workshop inauguration was done by deputy development commissioner Mr. Dinesh Kr. Mishra. He gave a speech on the vital issue decline in the sex ratio especially in Dhanbad District and he suggested to the PRI member to have regular discussion with the community to check the sex selection and sex deduction. He told that district administration are alert and they are trying to find which all clinics are registered or not and whether the violation of the act are done or not.

**Opening Address:** Speech sent by Dr Hemlata S Mohan, Chairperson, and State Commission for Women, Jharkhand

Addressing the participants and the dignitaries, Dr. Hemlata S. Mohan said that now is the opportune time to awaken ourselves and take concrete actions. The rise in female infanticide and the falling trend in the sex ratio are at alarming levels. The state-Department of Women and Child is also playing its crucial role at policy levels and under the various programmes and schemes. Parallel, the panchayt also has to come to the forefront and take responsibility in working towards achievement of the society free from gender bias and gender discrimination which promotes such evils as female foeticide. Through concerted and joint efforts of all the stakeholders, the decline in the sex ratio (proportion of male to female per thousand) can be minimised. Use of Sex selection techniques before birth to ascertain the sex of the unborn child raises a question mark on the existence of the women and girl child.

Mr. Ram, Coordinator, Vikash Bharti Ranchi, shared the objective of the workshop. He gave the information regarding the workshop he told that this workshop is conducted with the help of Raj women commission, Jharkhand and U.N women. He shared that female feticide is one of the important issue; If this will continue this issue will become gender imbalance society. The effect of this situation will increase of women trafficking, Rape, Fake marriage, girls kidnapping etc.



He said that now the intervention has to reach at the grassroots levels where all the stakeholders has to play an active role in creating and raising awareness on the alarming state of affairs and the resultant effects of the declining sex ratio and work towards bringing a change in the mind-set and attitude of the people for gender just society devoid of gender based crimes and discrimination. This workshop will capacitate the newly elected representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions in Jharkhand. To effectively implement the PCPNDT Act, 1994 our first priority is to work towards achieving a sensitized society which can be realised by creating awareness at all levels. A healthy society is built upon principles of equality and equity which respects its women and girls. The responsible citizens of the society will have to take the initiative in this direction for mass awareness.

We should realize our responsibility and co-ordinate with each other. If we want to give strength to the WPN then there is need to make co-ordination in between CDPO,BDO,SAHIYA and PRIs,from these co-ordination result will always positive. When females are pregnant then their family create the pressure on them for sex selection test, for them we should take action, we are ready take big steps in this area. He said that until we don't do the work with determination and honesty, our aim/goal will be not fulfilled/can't be achieved. Our goal is not easy, need to change in mentality and thoughts of society.

After the opening session few questions were give like

- 1. What do you understand by female feticides?
- 2. Do you have knowledge about capacity building training for women representative?
- 3. According to you what is the reason behind female feticides?
- 4. Do you know the reason behind decline in sex ratio?
- 5. Do you know about PC&PNDT Act?
- 6. Is RTI act able to prevent female feticides?
- 7. To sensitize the stakeholders & community about that today how day by day sex ratio and child sex ratio is going down

Ms. Purabi Paul chief functionary of Shramajivi Mahila Samity and resource person of this workshop Introduced to the topic and setting goals for this workshop. She explained the goal & objective of the workshop and how to follow the objectives in the working area of the representative. Through Power point presentation she showed the decline in the sex ratio India vs Jharkhand and in Dhanbad .She said that reason for declining in sex ratio is due to patriarchal society and son preference attitude in society.

She explained how we can understand the sex ratio and child sex ratio. Per 1000 male compare to female called female sex ratio. This could be understood by formula

Total No of Female	
	X 1000
Total No of Male	

She said about what do we understand about PRE conception sex selection And Pre Natal sex deduction. She shared with the participants about the PCPNDT Act, and how this act was formulated. She also mentioned that who is liable for the decline in the sex ratio.



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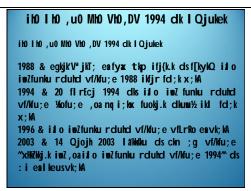
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> session of programme:

The II<sup>nd</sup> session of the programme started after Tea Break. This session focussed on the Provisions of the Act, the mechanisms and systems that have provided under the Act at the state and district level.

- PCPNDT Act, its provision and its status of implementation in Jharkhand.
- Interstate cross learning: Status review: Jharkhand is a vis other states: Uttrakhand.
- Role of women power network and districts health administration: As facilitators in implementation of PCPNDT Act, 1994.
- MTP Act
- Universal Birth Registration

#### Resource Persons were:-

1. Ms Purabi Paul- shramajivi Mahila Samity

## 1. Ms. Purabi Paul- Shramajivi Mahila Samity:

Ms Purabi Paul started the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of Programme. She shared with the participants about the PCPNDT Act, its provision and the status of implementation in context of Jharkhand state. She emphasized that in order to effectively implement the PCPNDT Act, we need to focus on various aspects. Amongst them issues such as migration of girls, health status, Poverty and lack of appropriate avenues of livelihood are also need to be addressed. Another underlying reason for the state of affairs is the patriarchal society and preference for the male members in the family. The resultant effects are 22% decline in the sex ratio from 2001 to 2011( Sex Ratio in 2001-965 per thousand males and in 2011, sex ratio came down to 943 per thousand males). In the last three decades, approximately 12 lakhs girls were killed before birth. This was attributed to the conservative nature of society which is augmented by the role played by the service providers such as Gynaecologist Radiologist, Sonologist and others.

Thus, going through various stages, the present form of PCPNDT Act is enacted and implemented. As per the provisions of the Act, neither sex of the baby can be known nor selected. The PCPNDT Act is different from other social Acts as it does not legislate for social behaviours and social changes but it advocates for ethical norms to be followed in practice of health service delivery and in the use of techniques. This Act is not meant for implementation on the society but it is enacted for providing total security of the pregnant women. Ms Purabi Paul also focussed on the following areas of the Act:\

- a) As per provision of this Act anyone including the husband, family and relatives cannot exert pressure on pregnant women for sex selection test or usage of any sex selection techniques. This can be done only under special medical cases it's allowed in only in some medical case.
- b) To regulate the law at the state level, State Appropriate Authority have the responsibility.
- c) At the district level, the Civil Surgeon has the responsibility to implement the Act.
- d) In the context of this Act, it is interesting to note that in case of complaint for violation of the provisions of the Act, an FIR cannot be lodged against anyone. If there has been an instance of a pregnant lady being forcefully subjected to sex selection then no action can be initiated against the responsible person.

- e) On the event of complaint for violation of the Act or its suspicion, help can be taken from the local police, civil surgeon and the local administration.
- f) Regular interaction and support of the Sahaiya can be taken in such cases as she is well versed with the area of her work and she has all the requisite information and details of pregnant women and mothers in her work area. The help and support of the PRI elected representatives can also be taken in such matters.
- g) Emphasizing on the need for sensitization of the society and for change in the mind-set of the people, Ms Purabi Paul said that positive trends such as celebration of the birth of a girl child should also be done as is done in case of a male child.
- h) There is also a need to fix the accountability of the doctors. There are unfair practices where doctors advise for ultrasound to be done without establishing the need for the same whereas only authorised person such as radiologist, MBBS doctors can only advise for such tests.
- i) As individuals, our responsibility is to proactively report such matters if on-going and bring it to the light of the appropriate authorities.



#### Presentation given by:Ms. Purabi paul



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Pre- Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex selection Act, 1994)

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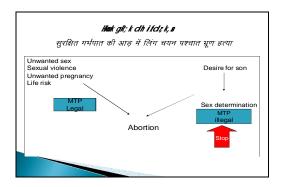
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#### **Main focus of the Presentation:**

- Sensitization of the community leaders.
- Through interstate cooperation, collection of all round information on pregnant mothers in those districts which are in close proximity with borders of other states.
- Analysis and evaluation of the filed Form F as per the provisions of PCPNDT Act, 1994. Supervision of the incoming information is also to be kept.
- A close monitoring and supervision of the efforts taken in the direction of complaints filed by the women complainants and in cases of exploited pregnant mothers is to be regularly done.
- Appraisal of the justice done in cases of pregnant mothers as victims which has come up before the courts and also ensuring that appropriate help whenever needed is made available.
- More active efforts to be taken to break the chain of criminals involved in crimes of sex selection tests.
- Active supervision of the pregnant mothers and status of birth rate with the help of ground level functionaries and PRIs representatives.
- Identification of reasons behind uneven birth rate in specific communities, castes, family.
- Registration of Applications received by local administration.
- More cooperation and coordination between Women Power Network and Advisory committees.
- More awareness on the Women Power Network to be created.

#### **Question Raised**

1. Mukhiya of Dakshinsal Panchayat in Dhanbad Block asked how to protect girl from fake marriage?

Ans: - Call on toll free no 100 and give the information to the local police station or to women commission

## Session – I (Topic – Abortion issues and MTP Act)

Ms Sharmistha Ghosh Roy (District Motivator-Shramajivi Mahila Samity)

She presented the PowerPoint Presentation on Abortion issues and MTP Act, under this topic he covered following things –

- Legal update of MTP Act
- Abortion figure in India context along with Jharkhand scenario
- Barriers of safe abortion include the Social aspect,
   Policy aspect, Physical aspect
- Impact of unsafe abortion and immediate intervention



• Introduction of concept of MTP Act in brief – including gestation limit, indicators, who provide, where and consent for MTP, penalty for violation and time to time amendments of Act.

#### गर्भ समापन कब किया जा सकता है?

20 सप्ताह तक की गर्भावधि के गर्भ का समापन किसी पंजीकृत डॉक्टर द्वारा किया जा सकता है जिसकी ऐसी राय हो कि:

- गर्भावस्था को जारी रखना गर्भवती महिला के लिए जोखिम है या यह उसके शारीरिक या मानसिक स्वास्थ्य के लिए गंभीर रूप से हानिकारक हो सकता है।
- पैदा होने वाले बच्चे को भी शारीरिक या मानसिक असमान्यताँए होने की संभावना है।
- गर्भावस्था का कारण बलात्कार हो (मान लिया जाता है कि यह मानसिक स्वास्थ्य को गंभीर हानि पहुँचा सकता है)।
- गर्भावस्था का कारण विवाहित महिला या उसके पति द्वारा प्रयोग किए गए गर्भ बिरोधकों की असफलता हो (मान लिया जाता है कि यह अनचाहा गर्भ, स्वास्थ्य को हानि पहुँचा सकता है)।

मगर १२ से २० सप्ताह तक के लिए दों पंजीकृत डॉक्टरों की राय आवश्यक है।

गर्भ समापन के लिए केवल महिला की सहमति आवश्यक है। उसके पति या अभिभावक की सहमति की आवश्यकता नहीं है। परन्तु एक नावालिक लड़की (18 वर्ष से कम) या मानसिक रूप से रूजन महिला के लिए अभिभावक की सहमति आवश्यक है।



- MTP rules for less than 12 weeks and up to 20 weeks
- Medical abortion by RU-486 along with arrangement of complications

## गर्भ समापन कौन कर सकता है?

केवल वही पंजीकृत डॉक्टर एम टी पी कर सकता है; (1) जिसके पास मान्य चिकित्सीय योग्यता हो जैसा कि मेडिकल काउन्सिल एक्ट, 1956 में विर्णित है; (2) जिसका नाम राज्य के मेडिकल पंजिका में दर्ज हो तथा; (3) जिसे स्त्री रोग एवं प्रसूति विज्ञान में वैसा अनुभव या प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त हो, जैसा इस कानून के चिकित्सीय गर्भ समापन (एम टी पी) नियमावली में निर्धारित है।

 Process of registration includes – function of District level committee, site verification, inspection of plan and various record keeping like monitoring form, register keeping, consent form and update time to time



# Ms . Purabi Paul explained the role of Panchayat representative Role of participants in the Programme:

- To orient the community about PCPNDT Act, 1994.
- To aware & sensitize the women & their family about their roles & responsibilities towards the value of girls.
- To sensitize themselves.
- To know that how panchayats level representative can work effectively to aware their panchayat.
  - She presented the PowerPoint Presentation on role of panchyat

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## (Group Discussions)

 ${\bf Opinion\ of\ participants\ :} (Based\ on\ Group\ Discussion\ with\ invitees) :-$ 

## **Opinion of Group**

- Change the mentality of society towards the girl child.
- Inspire the students of college and school.
- Take help from self-help group, PRIs member.
- Inspire to married family.
- Protest against dowry tradition.
- Monitor the pregnant women and information of newly marriage.
- Make accountable and responsible to every class of society.

#### **Conclusions:**

#### Way Forward-

- Commit to work for the socio-economic empowerment by all the stakeholders which will play a constructive role in strengthening & effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act.
- Statistics of female infanticide is going dangerous day by day. We need to co-ordinate
  with each other and make us accountable and responsible for better implementation of the
  provision of PCPNDT Act.
- More Women Empowerment focussed interventions to aware the women and girls about their rights.
- Change the old concept and mentality towards girl child and boy child.
- Give equal right and equality in society to girls and women.

## Vote of thanks By:-

Mr. Ram, Vikash Bharti, Dhanbad

## Resource persons are:

- 1. Ms Purabi Paul (Shramajivi Mahila Samity)
- 2. Ms Sharmistha Ghosh Roy (District Motivator-Shramajivi Mahila Samity)







#### **Enclosures:**

## Annexure A-Agenda

## Agenda

## One Day District Level Workshop of Elected Women Representatives

## On

## "Preventing Gender Biased Sex Selection"

Date: 24th of August 2013 Venue:Dhanbad(DRDA hall)

Time	Programme Details	Facilitator	
10:00-10:30 AM	Registration& Breakfast		
10:30-10:45 AM	Opening Address and welcome	15 min	
10:45-11:30 AM	Introduction to the topic and setting goals for this workshop by Sharamjivi Mahila Samity	45 min	
11:30-12:00 AM	Short Film	30 min	
12:00-12:30 PM	Illegal use of Diagnostic Technologies &     Unethical Medical Practices     Prevailing Status -District	30 min	
12:30-1:00 PM	PCPNDT Act, 1994& MTP Act,1971  • What does the Act Say	30 min	
1:00- 2:15 PM	<ul> <li>Role of EWRs</li> <li>Creating Community level awareness</li> <li>Enforcing the Act</li> <li>Appropriate platforms (Commission, State/ Dlst. Appropriate authority)</li> </ul>	1hr 15 min	
2:15 – 3:00 P.M	LUNCH	45 min	
3:00- 3:45 PM	<ul> <li>Group Discussions</li> <li>Solutions to arrest Declining Child Sex Ratio</li> <li>Action Plan(Group Work &amp; Presentations)</li> <li>Documentation &amp; Gap Mapping of this Workshop</li> </ul>	45 min	
3:45 – 4:30	Concluding Remarksby Sharamjivi Mahila Samity followed by Tea	45 min	

#### PRESS CLIP



