

Missing Girls in India and Indonesia? Comparative Study of the Decreasing Child Sex Ratio of India and Indonesia

Prof. Payal S. Kapoor
Assistant Professor
FORE School of Management
New Delhi - 110 016.
E-mail: payal@fsm.ac.in

Abstract:

On September 2015, 193 leaders of the world adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pledging to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. An important SDG is Gender Equality (Goal 5). According to the United Nations Development Programme equality of genders, in the truest sense, is not just a basic human right, but also an enabler of the desired sustainable development. But the question of empowerment and equality is farfetched and irrelevant until the discrimination against girl child is not completely eliminated, which often commences with the conception of life itself. Societies across different cultures, display variety of behaviours, in form of legal or illegal sex selection, to fulfil their desire for sons over daughters. In South and East Asia specifically, child sex ratio (age 0 to 7 years) is decreasing, lesser girls are taking birth compared to boys, predominantly because of deep rooted socio-cultural-economic prejudice, preference and desire for male child over female child. The current article is a comparative observation of two Asian countries, India and Indonesia, from the perspective of (a) decreasing child sex ratio of India and Indonesia (b) socio-cultural values that influence male child preference varying in the two counties (c) governmental policies, schemes and campaigns focused on reducing gender discrimination.

Key words: *Child Sex Ratio, Gender Equality, Women Empowerment, Gender Discrimination.*

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