

IMA PC-PNDT PROJECT

The last meeting, the project on PC-PNDT - Cadre of IMA volunteers strengthened and capabilities built for medical community to prevent sex selection has already started and is going as per plans.

The National Mentoring Group has met twice to chalk out plans for proper implementation of the programme.

A National Workshop of IMA Ambassadors against Sex Selection under the IMA Project "Cadre of IMA Volunteers strengthened and capacities built for medical community to prevent sex selection" was held on Sunday the 26th July 2009 at IMA House, I.P. Marg, New Delhi-110002.

A total of 55 participants were present at the workshop. It included the members of the National Mentoring Group formed at the IMA HQs. for monitoring activities related to Sex Selection at the HQs., Representatives from UNFPA, Resource persons on the issue who were specially invited for the workshop and IMA Ambassadors from the Project States.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Kiran Walia, Health Minister of Delhi. Dr. Ashok Adhao, National President, IMA, Dr. Dharam Prakash, Hony. Secretary General, IMA and other office bearers were present in the workshop. UNFPA was represented by Mr. Nesim Tumkaya, Country Representative, UNFPA, Ms. Ena Singh, Ms. Dhanashri Brahme and other representatives of UNFPA.

The Faculty included Dr. P.R. Deo, State Programme Coordinator, UNFPA, Dr. V.K. Goyal, State Nodal Officer (PNDT), Government of Punjab, Mr. Rajat Ray, Sr. Advocacy and Communications Officer and Dr. Neelam Singh, Chief Functionary, Vatsalya.

The delegates were divided into 4 groups to deliberate upon various issues related to the implementation of the programme. The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:-

1. Orientation of IMA and Non-IMA doctor, students, interns, House staff, PGTs of G&O and Radiology.
2. Taking support from other NGOs and Building linkage with the social groups
3. DASS Forum to be formed in Local and State Level.
4. Sensitizing doctors about PC-PNDT Act (in the line of Indore Check list as presented by Dr. P.R. Deo)
5. In all meetings or Conferences of IMA at District or State level, Stopping Sex Selection should be an agenda.
6. Authorization by issuing ID photo from appropriate authority for all IAASS members to be done.
7. Doctors should make group and doctor should not act at place where he/she is living/working. Other Ambassador would come to his/her place although information will be shared by each.
8. IMA should make contact with Prof. Kiran Walia and arrange to make advt. on TV that any one who wants to give information on female foeticide can give on toll free number (Advertised) and name of the informer will be kept secret.

9. Renew Acquaintance

- list of all doctors/Clinics in your area – Obstetric & Sinology
- Appropriate Authority – meet with “Press”
- Arrange for a meeting

10. Present report to the State President and Secretary

11. Participation in the meeting.

12. Copy of State Health Dept. and all DGOs, A.A. – Dist.Surgeon,

13. Medical Colleges - Awareness – Staff, Students and Faculty

14. N.G.Os.Awareness – All Colleges, Students, “Future Parents”

“Never miss on Opportunity” to propagate – the IMA Message “Save the Girl Child”

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops – try to spread the message

This was followed by a workshop Doctors for Daughters: Faith in Action against Sex Selection, an AOL Medical Community Meet at Art of Living HQs., Art of Living International Centre, Bangalore on 12-13th September 09 where all the Ambassadors were sensitized further to achieve the aims of the project.

A Google e-group has been setup for proper sharing and percolation of information related to Sex Selection which will prove helpful for all the Ambassadors to work in their areas of operation.

At the second meeting of the National Mentoring Group, the Project States were divided among the NMG members based on their proximity with the State. It was decided that the NMG members will monitor the activities of the Ambassadors and shall submit an Action Plan for the same to the HQs. at the earliest. The same shall be submitted to UNFPA for additional sanction of funds for this activity.

The project is going in full swing and we shall strive to make our country free of Sex Selective procedures by medical practitioners.

Doctors against sex selection- D A S S.

The Country’s male-oriented society has created a desperate yearning for baby boys. For many, the wish is strong enough to kill — and a surge of new technology that can determine a baby’s gender has created a generation of “**missing daughters.**”

INDIAN GIRLS are often seen as a burden. The marriage of a daughter, even an educated one, entails spending vast sums of money and a fat dowry. Lately, especially among India’s growing affluent, the dowry burden is rising. Deeply entrenched social attitudes and the lack of political will to punish those found guilty of gender bias (one of the extreme forms of which is female feticide) has led to the current situation.

In a recent warning, our Indian Medical Association (IMA), a network of 180,000 doctors in the country said that India is heading toward a “**demographic disaster of the century.**” “Despite the law against sex determination (enacted in 1994), female feticide is still a serious menace in the country. While 12 million girls are born in India every year, almost **2 million female fetuses are aborted annually after sex determination,**”

NEW Technology , One of the main contributors to the country’s “missing daughters” is the availability of

new ways to eliminate a female fetus. "I can say with 100 percent conviction that anybody Who has had one female child and is expecting another wants to know the sex of the fetus. Eighty percent of people in this category would like to abort the fetus if they think it will be another female child.

At the heart of the matter are dual use technologies like ultrasound. Ultrasound can be used to see the form of the fetus in the womb after conception and detect any abnormalities. However, such tests also indicate the gender of the fetus. Though India's law specifically bans Prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex determination, many doctors have been quick to cash in on the money-making potential of the gadget.

But in India, where poverty both in major cities and in the provinces is rampant, an argument can still be made for expensive ultrasound procedures — and ultimately abortion. A typical advertisement that appeals to parents who don't want to lose their life savings on a dowry reads: "Spend 500 rupees now, save 50,000 rupees later."

MALES DOMINATE POPULATION . At the turn of the century, there were 972 females per thousand males in India. In 1961, the figure dropped to 941 and in 1991, when the last national census was undertaken, it had fallen to a dismal 927.

"The male population in India outstrips females by some 31 million.

The question is: **Where have all the missing daughters gone?**" .

The good news coming out of this country reaching the billion mark is that the population growth is slowing down. The bad news is that neither rising affluence nor literacy have made the slightest dent on the traditional obsession with the male child.

The IMA has threatened disciplinary action against errant doctors who exploit the craze for sons.

Female feticide emerged as a topic of debate, a succession of governments has enacted a plethora of laws.

GROWTH INDUSTRY : But the clientele for pre-natal gender tests has continued to grow. Today prenatal sex determination facilities are available in cities and towns which can't even provide basic facilities like running water to the vast majority of its residents.

The **IMA and UNPF and AOL foundation** recently began a nation-wide awareness campaign on the issue of female feticide. The IMA has threatened disciplinary action against errant doctors who exploit the craze for sons.

But the medical fraternity is the first to concede that this is easier said than done. The Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994 declared **ultrasound for sex selection a jailable offense**, but there has not been a single conviction for feticide in the country since.

Currently there are nearly 30,000 ultrasound clinics in the country. However, most are unregistered and worse, staffed by doctors who are not qualified to conduct specialized tests.

"In India, we are masters of loopholes," . So while a doctor may not write that a fetus is male or female, what is to stop him from using code language. The 'v' sign for victory means a boy."

**IMA appeals to all the medical fraternity involved in imageology & obgynecology ---
please restrain from this heinous act of "sex determination" and "female feticide".
where can we get bahus to our sons ? please stop sex selection.**