

# **A Study on Gender Preferences and Female Foeticide by Women in Tamilnadu**

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**Abstract:** *Female foeticide refers to the illegal practice of terminating a pregnancy solely because the fetus is female. This practice is deeply rooted in gender discrimination, where societies place higher value on male children due to cultural, social, and economic factors. The emergence of modern technologies such as ultrasound and amniocentesis has made it easier to determine the sex of the fetus, leading to the selective abortion of female fetuses. This paper delves into the origin of female foeticide, analyzing the societal and cultural biases that perpetuate this harmful practice. It also examines the government initiatives aimed at curbing female foeticide, such as the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC-PNDT) Act, which prohibits the use of prenatal sex determination. However, despite these legal frameworks, the issue persists due to the lack of awareness and social enforcement of these laws. The study also explores current trends related to female foeticide, highlighting how deeply ingrained gender preferences continue to influence reproductive choices. The research aims to understand the underlying causes of child gender preference and the harmful practices that result in female foeticide and infanticide. It stresses the importance of public awareness campaigns to change societal attitudes. By addressing these issues, the study hopes to contribute to the eradication of female foeticide and promote gender equality. The study was collected with 200 samples in and around the Maduravoyal bus stand using purposive sampling techniques.*

**Keywords:** Discrimination, Foeticide, Termination, Preconception, Sex ratio

