

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND PRACTICE AS REGARD SEX DETERMINATION AND GENDER PREFERENCE AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDING ANC CLINIC IN DISTRICT HOSPITAL UJJAIN M.P.

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ABSTRACT

Knowledge, attitude and practice studies have lost their academic importance, since inspite of millions of KAP studies nothing is being contributed to the science (Mohapatra, 1992). However, it is expected that most Indian women, during their pregnancy, want a male child and therefore go for sex determination. The present study was therefore, undertaken to find out as to what the women know and what they do in order to justify their desire of offspring. A total of 350 female were enrolled in study over a period of month. The mean age of women was 29.04 ± 6.26 yrs (minimum age-20 yrs, maximum age 50 yrs). It was observed that about 21% women desire more male children than girls, while 4% women need only male children. Thus the male child preference of women amounts to 25% of women under observation. Study reveals that women who was in antenatal state showed significantly higher interest in fetal sex determination ($\chi^2 = 27.008$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.001$).

Key Words: Gender preference, KAP study

INTRODUCTION:

Preference of male baby in India is a well-documented phenomenon, and its implications for skewed sex ratios, female feticide and higher child mortality rates for girls have drawn research and policy attention. Less well researched are the underlying determinants of son preference as an ideology and its implications for living girls. The preference for a son continues to be a prevalent norm in traditional Indian household resulting in declining sex ratio, which has dropped to alarming level. In India child sex ratio (CSR) which was 976 in 1961, fell down to 927 in 2001 and 914 in 2011. In Madhya Pradesh sex ratio is 930, child sex ratio has fallen from 941 in 1991 to 932 in 2001. which further fell down to 912 in 2011. Five districts of Madhya Pradesh are having CSR less than 900. These districts are Morena: 835, Gwalior: 832, Bhind: 835, Datia: 852 and Rewa: 883. Therefore the present study conducted among pregnant women attending ANC clinic to find out the level of their awareness regarding sex determination and attitude towards gender. The present study was undertaken to understand the knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding gender preference and sex determination among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic in District Hospital Ujjain, MP.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Study was conducted in October 2013 that enrolled 350 women attending antenatal clinic of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. This hospital has good infrastructure and trained man power in form of doctors and paramedical staff. We visited the ANC OPD every Friday of October 2013.because Friday is ANC clinic day. During the study period and fill up the pre-tested proforma by interview method of all the pregnant women. Informed verbal consent obtained from each participant of study. A pre-designed questionnaire based proforma used to elicit information on Attitude and gender preference regarding sex determination and reason for them along with knowledge of sex determination techniques among the study subjects. The questionnaires consist of socio-demographic and SES of study subjects and questions assessing their knowledge, attitude and practice regarding sex determination as: Preference, Reason for preference, Modes of sex determination, Legal law and act related to its punishment.

RESULT:

A total of 350 female were enrolled in study over a period of month. The mean age of women was 29.04 ± 6.26 yrs (minimum age-20 yrs, maximum age 50 yrs).

Majority of women (62.9%) was in age group of 21-30 yrs, 100% of women was in antenatal state among study subject preferred gender composition was equal no of boy and girls as considered by 65% of women however 21% of women desired for more boys than girls. 1% of women desired only girls as a preferred gender composition as compared to only son which was considered by 4% of women (Table-1).

Table-1 : Socio- demographic variables of study subject (N=350)

Variables		No. of women	%
Age	<20	16	4.6
	21-30	220	62.9
	31-40	96	27.4
	>40	18	5.1
Religion	Hindu	239	68.3
	Muslim	107	30.6
	Sikh	02	0.6
	Christian	02	0.6
Habitation	Urban	218	62.3
	Rural	132	37.7
Socio-Economic Status	I	21	6.0
	II	86	24.6
	III	94	26.9
	IV	99	28.3
	V	50	14.3

Study reveals that women who was in antenatal state showed significantly higher interest in fetal sex determination ($\chi^2 = 27.008$, df = 2, p<0.001). Regarding awareness 70.28 % of women were aware about place

for sex determination and 75% of women told private hospital as the place where they can know about fetal sex. 78.85 % of women were aware about fetal sex determination technique and 85.86 % of women knew USG as a fetal sex determination technique followed by some investigation using a needle 14.14% only.

70.6 % of women were aware to fact that fetal sex determination is a crime and 66.9% of women knew about the punishment for sex determination and implication of feticide. 31.14% women knew jail and fine as a punishment, followed by jail (2.28%) for feticide. Only 39% of women were aware about the fact that the doctor is also punished for this crime, 3.4% of women knew jail and fine as a punishment to doctor, followed by cancellation of registration (13%), however 68.57% of women were not aware about it (Table-3).

Table-2: Preferred combination of children by study participants

Preferred combination of children	No. of women	%
Only boys	14	4.0
Only girls	04	1.1
More boys than girls	73	20.9
Equal No. of boys and girls	228	65.1
No preference	31	8.9
Total	350	100.0

Table - 3: Awareness of subject regarding sex determination

Variables		No. (N=350)	%
Places , where sex determination can be done	Aware	246	70.28
	Private	186	76.00
	Government	43	17.60
	Both Private & Govt.	16	06.40
	Not Aware	104	29.72
Know the methods of sex determination	Knows	276	78.85
	USG	237	85.86
	With Needle	39	14.13
	Not knows	74	21.1
Fetal sex determination is considered a crime	Aware	247	70.6
	Not aware	103	29.4
Type of punishment given for Fetal Sex Determination	Penalty	08	2.28
	Jail	80	22.85
	Jail and Penalty	109	31.14
	Not know	153	43.71
Doctor is punished for this crime (fetal sex determination)	Aware	136	38.9
	Not aware	214	61.1
	Cancellation of Registration	45	12.85

Type of punishment given to doctor for fetal sex determination	Penalty	02	0.57
	Jail and Penalty	11	3.14
	Not know	240	68.57

Table-4: Desire for child

No of Children Currently			Desire of Next Child							
No of male	No of female		Boy		Girl		Either		No child desired	
0	0	(N=50)	31	62.0	0	0.0	19	38	0	0.0
0	1	(N= 60)	48	80.0	3	5.0	3	5.0	6	10.0
0	2	(N = 30)	30	100	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0
1	0	(N= 38)	4	10.5	14	36.8	20	52.6	0	0.0
1	1	(N= 50)	10	20	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	80.0
1	2	(N = 17)	3	17.6	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14	82.4

Table-5: Desire of next child

Desire of Next Child	No.	Reasons									
		Earning Hand For Family		For family growth		Old Age Dependency		They both are equal		Cannot afford more children	
Boy	150	11	7.3	99	66.0	28	18.6	12	8	0	0
Girl	20	6	30.0	0	0.0	0	0	12	60	2	10
Either	51	0	0.0	15	29.4	0	0	36	70.5	0	0
No preference	129	0	0.0	17	13.8	14	10.9	12	9.3	86	66.6
Total	350	17	4.8	131	37.4	42	12	72	20.5	88	25.1

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