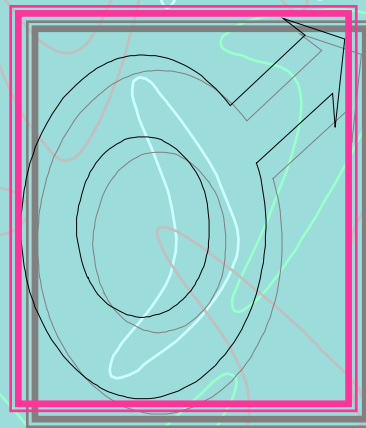
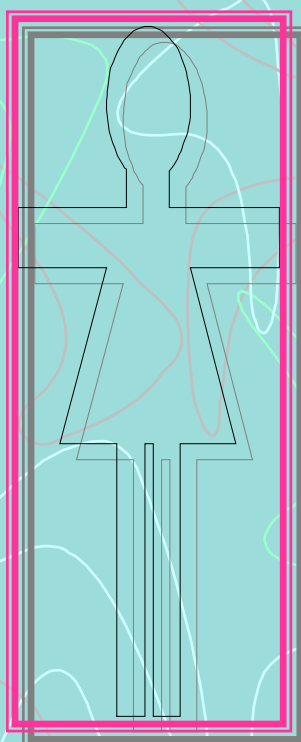
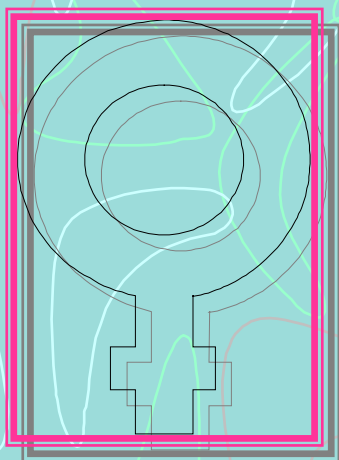


Where are the missing girls?

- District Level Sensitisation workshop on Declining
Child Sex Ratio in Jhunjhunu



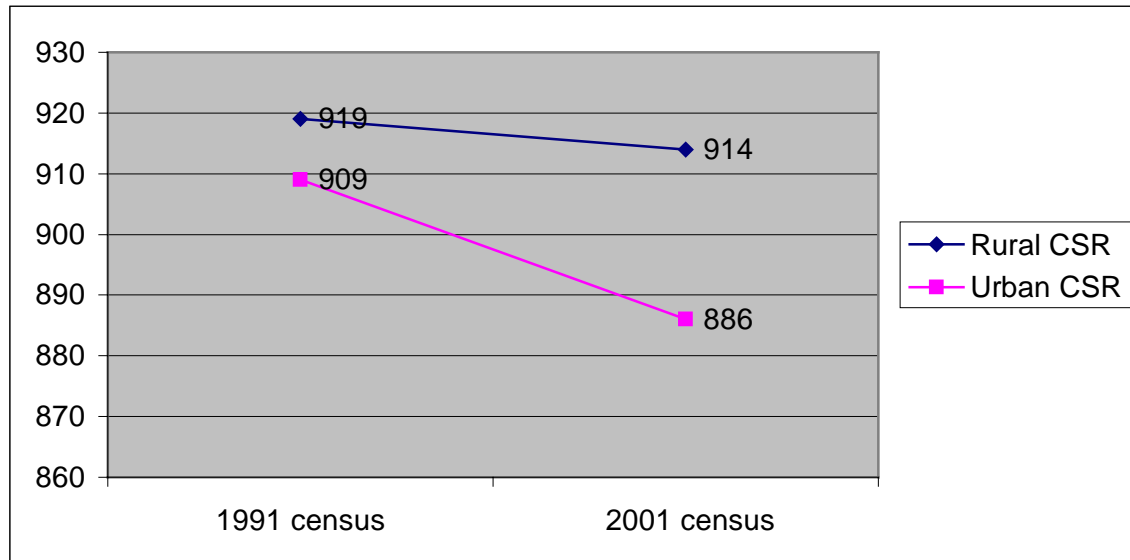
Organized by:
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The issue of concern:

From of the 2001 census it is evident that the numbers of girls under 6 years is no way matching to the numbers of boys in the same age range. The number of girls per thousand boys is called to be Child Sex Ratio (CSR). This CSR is declining year after year, the major cause found to be female infanticide of foeticide. The technology of ultrasound, sonography has made it possible that one can deliberately terminate the female foetus by sex selection. A good lot of stakeholders are involved in this practice which is very serious offence. As per 2001 census there the child sex ratio is 903 in India and many states of the country do have the same trend. It is calculated that with this rate of declination there would be a huge missing of around 5 lakh females. The situation is quite alarming, there is a need of extra vigilance on the situation otherwise it will create a havoc. These days NGOs and VOs of the country together with the collaboration of GOs are trying out the strategy to come out of this situation. The major cause found is the lack of awareness and gender sensitivity and technology available. The son preference is taking a lucrative place in our society and thought to be the carrier of the legacy. Daughters are taken as burden and are eliminated before they grow. This is a curse for the society, often we find everyone talking about the gender equality but the mindset is different, we don't stick to our sayings. People forget that without a female member in the family the boy couldn't take birth. It's a natural phenomenon that a female can give birth to next generation.

Having a look on the trend of Declining Child Sex Ratio (DSCR) we come across with data of Rajasthan state, which is very much horrible. The following table shows the trend:

CSR in 1991 census	CSR in 2001 census	Declination
919 (Rural)	914 (Rural)	-03
909 (Urban)	886 (Urban)	-23

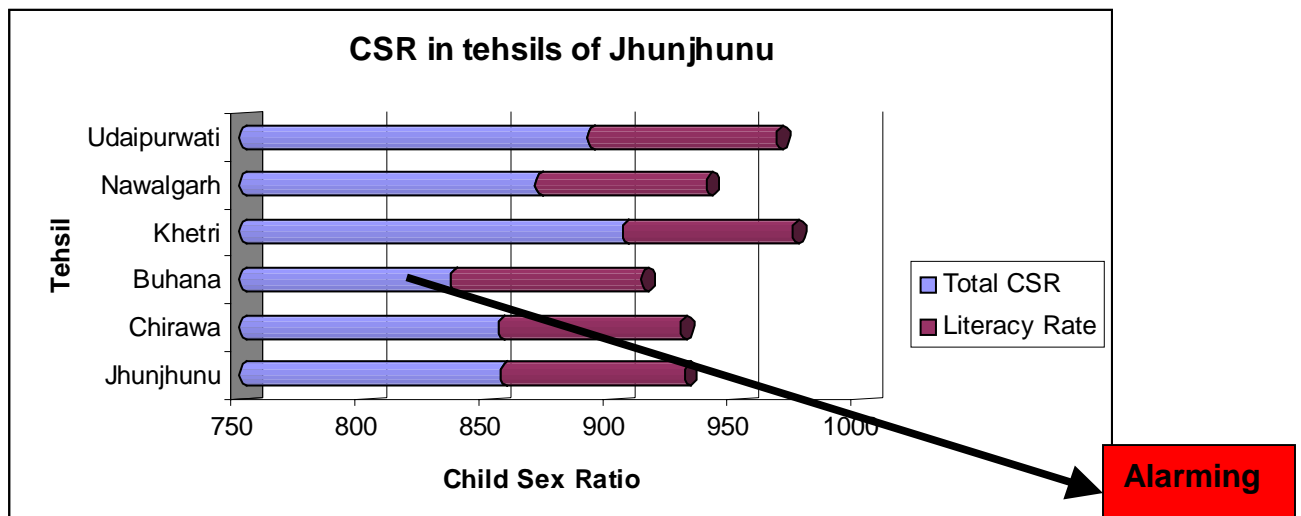


From the above table it is clear that the CSR has declined during the decade. One thing is very remarkable that this declination is more in urban as compared to that of rural area. It's a great question that what are the reasons, which has made this gap. We know that in urban area people are more literate and thoughtful even then this result is coming. There are many questions like that which always comes in front while talking about the issue of CSR. Many development agencies are engaged in finding the proper solution to that. In Rajasthan there are such agencies, which directly focus on the reduction of Female Foeticide, which might reduce the gap between the sex ratio. UNFPA has collaborated with many agencies for the purpose. As a matter of fact the work of each agency is restricted to the campaign, whereas there is a need to do something extraordinary as if the people could understand the problem by heart and they are ready to accept the truth.

Shikshit Rojgar Kendra Prabandhak Samiti (SRKPS) a non-profit organization based in Shekhawati region of Rajasthan accepted the fact and thought to fight for the issue. First of all the organization did study on the status of the CSR in the Jhunjhunu district right up to the village level. The organization has the segregated data of the village wise child sex ratio. The situation is perturbing, the

district has CSR 867 (2001 census) as compared to 900 in 1991 census, and the declination is 33. There are six tehsils in the district the status of CSR (as per 2001 census) of all those could be seen as the following table:

Tehsil	CSR (Total)	CSR (Urban)	CSR (Rural)	Literacy Rate
Jhunjhunu	855	831	868	74.0
Chirawa	854	858	853	73.7
Buhana	835	-----	835	76.7
Khetri	904	852	911	68.8
Nawalgarh	869	875	867	68.8
Udaipurwati	890	865	893	76.2



From the above figure it is evident that how literacy rate is oppositely related to the CSR. Buhana has the highest literacy rate but the CSR is lowest. There could be various reasons to that which is an issue of research. There could be various reasons to that, but there is a need of exercise. SRKPS has tried to find the possible reasons and solution to that but it has not succeeded lot instead of few significant results. In the year 2004-05 organization started raising its voice in a campaign mode. It used its platform to raise awareness and sensitisation amongst different stakeholders through different activities. The activities were school rallies, different school level competitions like debate, speeches, painting etc., workshops with DLOs, PRIs. The strategy was to find some concrete

solution so that a strategy could be build up to reduce the gap. Unfortunately organization didn't make out much, but it has a hope to work it out in near future. With this hope organization organized a **District Level Sensitisation Workshop (DLSW)** on December 6, 2005 in the chairmanship of the honourable district collector **Shri Bhawani Singh Detha**. The workshop was observed in the collectorate meeting hall from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Workshop came out with certain views of the participants which could help in making strategy for the next action and making it sustainable one.

This report entails the brief proceedings of the workshop, which has been taken on to the paper by Mr. Brajesh Kumar Sinha (Programme Officer), SRKPS, Jhunjhunu.

Title of the workshop: District Level Sensitisation Workshop on Declining Child Sex Ratio in Jhunjhunu.

Date: December 6, 2005.

Venue: District Collectorate Meeting Hall, Jhunjhunu.

Participants: DLOs, Academia, NGO representatives, Operators of diagnostic techniques like ultrasound

Chair person: Shri Bhawani Singh Detha , District Collector, Jhunjhunu

Welcome & Introduction

Shri Rajan Choudhary, Secretary SRKPS first of all welcomed all the participants. He asked for one to one introduction of the participants. After this he gave a brief on the issue and the objective of the workshop. He said that every one of us would agree that in last few years the child sex ratio of entire Rajasthan has declined and our district is not separate from that. We have raised this issue in Jhunjhunu and in continuation this workshop is being organized. We must be thankful to honourable district collector that he has agreed to chair this workshop. The objectives of the workshop:

- § To present the status of Child Sex Ratio in the district.
- § To discuss & examine the legal intervention of the Govt. on female foeticide.
- § To discuss the possible action to reduce the gap of Child Sex Ratio.

After this short introduction mike was handed over to Mr. Brajesh Kumar Sinha, Programme Officer who gave a brief power presentation on the above objectives.

Child Sex Ratio Definition: Number of females per thousand males in the range
0-6 yrs.

Scenario: | India: Rural- 934 Urban: 903
| Rajasthan: Rural-914 Urban: 886
(Source: 2001 census)

Status in Rajasthan: | Banswara: 972
| Jhunjhunu: 867
| Ganganagar: 852
| 74 tehsil has Child Sex Ratio <900
| 139 Tehsil has Child Sex Ratio 900-949
| Kothra Tehsil has 1001
(Source: 2001 census)

Status in Jhunjhunu District:

| Jhunjhunu Tehsil: 855 Lit Rate: 74.00
| Chirawa Tehsil: 854 Lit Rate: 73.7
| Buhana Tehsil: 835 Lit Rate:76.7
| Khetri Tehsil: 904 Lit Rate: 68.8
| Nawalgarh Tehsil: 869 Lit Rate: 68.8
| Udaipurwati Tehsil: 890 Lit Rate: 76.2

Major Causes found:

- | Sex Selection and intended abortion of female foetus
- | More Deaths of females under 6 yrs.

In the society there is a special consideration for boys as '**Baba are more valuable than Baby**'

Alarming Situation:

- | At this rate 5 lakhs women would disappear by 2010
- | Child Marriage will occur due to shortage of girls- Child death and morbidity will rise
- | Atrocities against women will increase like: rapes etc.
- | Situation of multi husband may arise

Legal Intervention:

- | PNDT Act, 1994 implemented in 1996
- | Amended in 2002 to PCPNDT Act
- | PCPNDT: Selection of sex is illegal before or after pregnancy.

Provisions under PCPNDT:

Sex Detection could be done in case of:

- | Genetic disorders
- | By birth disorders
- | Mental disorder
- | Sex disorders

Diagnostic Technique could be applied on:

- | Woman more than 35 yrs
- | Aborted two or more times
- | Side effect of drugs or chemicals
- | Chances of transfer of any genetic disorders
- | Agreement of woman is necessary

Provisions for operators:

- | Registration from Medical Head
- | The Registration certificate should be notified in Public
- | Declaration is necessary "Sex Detection is not done"
- | Abortion under MTP Act 1971 is legal

| Abortion till 12 weeks of pregnancy could be done under advise of single doctor

| 12 weeks to 5 months under supervision of two doctors

Ban under PCPNDT:

Place Related:	Person Related:
Registration, Place should not change, Notice	§ No use at home, § No Sex detection, § No pressure on the pregnant women, § No use of indication for sex detection

Legal Action against defaulters:

| First time faultier: 3 years imprisonment and Rs. 50,000 fine

| Second time: 5 years imprisonment and Rs. 1 lakh fine

Administrative action on Doctors

| Doctors if found faulty could get cancellation of Registration from IMC for five years and/or for ever

Vigilance over the enactment of PCPNDT:

There is a provision of district level monitoring committee to keep a vigil on the private operators for the implementation of PCPNDT on the right track. The district level committee includes the following members:

1. Three Medical Specialist
2. One Legal Expert
3. Three Social Workers
4. One Administrative Officer

Mr. Rajan Choudhary, then put some village wise data of CSR in Jhunjhunu. He said that there are many villages in Jhunjhunu, which have sex ratio below 200, and yes there are few which have good sex ratio. We have to consider the major one, which is very remarkable. On the other hand there are many private operators of Diagnostic techniques in which many are unregistered. There are some examples where mobile operators come from adjoining states and they use malpractices in diagnostic techniques. The mobile van is well equipped with diagnostic techniques and pregnancy termination facilities. We all have to come forward and make the people aware of the losses they are making for their own. The monitoring committee of the district is defunct. There is a need of controlling these private operators and the same time sensitisation of people should be our priority. He mentioned the objective of the workshop that this is to sensitise the media people to take necessary actions to minimise the rate of declining sex ratio in Jhunjhunu district. He also mentioned the current status of Jhunjhunu district regarding Child Sex Ratio, that according to 2001 census we have 867 females against every 1000 males of age group 0-6 years. If this situation continues then in future the condition will be worst total balance will be disturbed there will be minimum number of girls available in the society.

He added that one finding is really amazing that is Child Sex Ratio has declined maximum in the blocks of Jhunjhunu district where literacy rate is maximum, but in Kerala state it is 1003 per 1000 males and we know that this state has maximum literacy rate. We have to find out the reasons behind this also, that in spite of maximum literacy rate sex ratio is declining. He further told that we are here to resolve to a solution to this problem so that in 2011 census this sex ratio becomes normal. We think that media can play a very important role to solve this problem, because there is a *lot of power in pen*. He further suggested that main reason could be negligence towards a girl child people do not take girls as worthwhile rather they take them as a burden, for which dowry system is a very big reason. We need to sensitise people to leave these types of thinking and we have to also fight against the illegal health centres, which are indulged female foeticides. We are today sitting with media people to share your ideas regarding

this issue and we also want some supports from you to eradicate this problem from our district. He further gave the turn to speak to Shri Umesh Sahal, representative from Dainik Bhaskar.

Shri Umesh Sahal, representative from Dainik Bhaskar, thanked Rajan ji and praised SRKPS for its noble work against this issue. He further said that firstly we have to understand the Child Sex Ratio and it is nothing but number of females against every 1000 males of 0-6 years age group. Record of every census tells us the situation of this number and we can see that it is declining day by day, which is a very serious issue. There are many imbalances in our society like lowering of water level, increasing prevalence of diseases similarly, Declining Child Sex Ratio is an imbalance for our society, which will certainly create a crisis situation in future. The reason for this declination is a research question. Normally we can find that due increasing ultra sonography facilities people easily get female foetus aborted in very low cost. There could be many more reasons but we have to search for the basic reasons for this problem. Media people through their publications can easily get to the people with idea to minimise the female foeticides.

Dr. Priti Singh, Lecturer said that to day declining sex ratio is a vibrant issue. Child Sex Ratio means number of girls after every 1000 boys of 0-6 years age group. This number of girls is declining day by day. In Jhunjhunu it is only 867, which is very serious matter. As balanced nutrition is important for the growth of the body similarly balanced number of boys and girls is necessary for the growth of the society. There are many reasons for this situation one of them is female foeticide. This is fact that earlier girls were given importance but now they are being neglected. Parents do not want to give birth to a girl child, they are afraid of dowry system which was earlier a gift package for newly married couples, now it has become a business. Science has also given some equipment to make this task of foeticide easier one. Today everywhere ultrasound is available which detects the sex of the foetus and people deliberately kill the female foetus with

the help of medical practitioners. She further explained that parents do not give importance to a girl rather they take them as burden. We are not actualising this which very bad for the mankind. We should take initiative to teach this lesson to our society so that from today onwards no one will think to kill the girl child.

Mr. Satyendra Singh Choudhary, Choudhary Sonography Center, said that we private operators are responsible for the misuse of the diagnostic techniques. We indulge ourselves in malpractices for some money, which is very bad. We should not promote this thing rather we should motivate people to not involve in sex detection, but we should give importance to the girl child.

Shri D. S. Jhaharia, PD ICDS said that we have to find out the reason related to this problem and I think that our culture is responsible for this situation. Our culture promotes dowry and due to this parents take daughters as burden, hence they don't want to give birth to a girl child. People take girls as a housekeeping fellow and they don't want to promote them, our culture is responsible for this. Society, NGO, senior citizens and media should come forward to aware people against this so that they start giving importance to the girl child. We have to keep vigil upon the illegal ultrasound centres and doctors who are indulged in female foeticides. We can also force education department to add this subject matter into the course curriculum so that children could be sensitised against this female foeticides. At least they would not promote this practice when they will become adults. We should use the platform of ICDS centers to give the publicity of this issue through out the district through many sources and we are ready to help the administration.

Shri Harnath Singh, ADEO Elementary, said that it's a matter of great concern and we should come forward to fight for this issue. Education system could play a major role in sensitising people. There are many reasons for this situation one of them is female foeticide. This is fact that earlier girls were given importance but now they are being neglected. Parents do not want to give birth to a girl child,

they are afraid of dowry system which was earlier a gift package for newly married couples, now it has become a business. Science has also given some equipment to make this task of foeticide easier one. Today everywhere ultrasound is available which detects the sex of the foetus and people deliberately kill the female foetus with the help of medical practitioners. She further explained that parents do not give importance to a girl rather they take them as burden. They forget that '*yatra naryastu pujiyante, ramante tatr devta*' means god lives where a woman is worshiped. We are not actualising this which is very bad for the mankind. We should take initiative to teach this lesson to our society so that from today onwards no one will think to kill the girl child. We should do something in a campaign mode for having some positive result.

After hearing all this **Shri Bhawani Singh Detha** was called to give remarks on the discussion. He said that yes indeed the situation has become worse. It's the time to do something strategically. Sex ratio has declined with the development, we have to find out the reason behind it. Some research work is required to find out the possible reasons. I do agree that district monitoring committee in Jhunjhunu should be strengthened. I will talk to the CM & HO in this regard. I really appreciate SRKPS's intervention on this issue. Community awareness programme should be implemented to sensitise the community. We have gathered here for a nice discussion on the issue, which is really harming to our social balance. We should regularly sit on these types of issues no matter whatever is the banner. You people have expressed your views very nicely and I want to follow those ideas. Today every person of our district is aware about ultrasonography. One thing is very remarkable that in spite of high literacy rate we have maximum declining sex ratio whereas in other states like Kerala it is just opposite. I think we have only stressed upon literacy and not on social development. We should be very clear that without social awakening we couldn't fight with some legal powers to crush these practices. We are fighting against Child marriage with many legal objections but it is still prevailing in our society. Yes, administration is there but we have to awaken our society. Media should

create a positive thinking in itself to fight against this practice. We should work for national benefit and it's our responsibility. People think that media is fourth pillar of our democracy but I consider it as first pillar. Even one word can change the social thinking, we should work in that mode in a very revolutionary way. We should teach our society about the result of declining sex ratio so that people could understand the situation. Media can motivate people by inculcating a positive thinking towards girl child.

Other participants also spoken something on the issue and all of them supported that something concrete should be done in this field.

Lastly, Shri Rajan Choudhary was summed up the workshop with thanks to all the participants. He said that this type of workshop would be organized in future to plan out the strategy. Unfortunately, CM & HO and other district level health official are not present here. We hope that in next meeting they will be present and something concrete would be worked out.

List of Participants:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Contact No.
1	D. S. Jhajharia	PD, ICDS	9414663886
2	Hiralal Swami	Editor	9314412074
3	Tekchand Sharma	Chief Coordinator, Zila Saksharta Samiti, Jhunjhunu	01592-232859
4	Ram Kumar	Rajdhani Diagnostic Center	01592-234077
5	Suman Choudhary	Paryavaran <i>evam</i> Gramin Vikas Samiti	01592-200783
6	Commando Kripaal Singh	NGO	9414082451
7	Roshni	Sarthi Sanstha, Surajgarh	01596-237679
8	Dr. Sunita Meel	Lecturer	01592-234623
9	Smt. Vinod Meel	Yuva Vikas Public Samiti, Jaalimpura	01592-235649
10	Dr. Priti Singh	Lecturer	01592-232627
11	Nand Kumar	Teacher	01592-232392
12	Satyendra Singh Choudhary	Choudhary Sonography Center	9414080920
13	Dinesh Sharma	NGO	01592-274257
14	Kailash Chandra Jaangid	NGO	01592-234110
15	Pyaaarelal Sagra	NGO	01592-271494
16	Dr. Sanjay Madaan	Lecturer	9829337137
17	Harnath Singh	ADEO Elementary	01592-235475
18	Dayanand Yadav	PRO	
19	Suman Choudhary	Editor Veer Bhumi Ki Awaaz	01592-200443
20	Umesh Sahal	Dainik Bhaskar	9829216343
21	Ranjeet Dhaka	NGO	9414835894
22	Charan Singh		9414347439