**THE QUESTION**

What is being done to stop female infanticide?

We aspire to help people understand the cause and effects of infanticide and to inspire people to continue working on a solution.

**BACKGROUND**

Women in India Are...

- Thought of as inferior
- Not given the same opportunities as men
- Expected to take care of the household and their husbands

Some Statistics...

- 3 out 5 girls attend school
- Only 26% are designated as workers
- 70% of married women suffer abuse from their husbands
- 50% have been beaten by a family member

**FEMALE INFANTICIDE**

- The intentional killing of baby girls due to a preference for males
- Common methods include suffocation, starvation or even burying the baby alive
- Usually committed by people who cannot afford ultrasounds → the poorest of the poor
- It is not as common anymore

**THE CAUSES**

**Causes of Female Infanticide**

- Indirect
- Direct
  - Women’s opinion is irrelevant
  - Society’s expectations of mothers
  - Don’t want daughters to live a hard life
  - Religion
  - Economic Reasons
  - Safety Concerns

**THE SOLUTIONS**

- Eliminate corruption in the Indian government and police force
  - Enforce Dowry Prohibition Act
  - Rape, harassment should not be tolerated
- Empower women
  - Workshops on self defense
  - Job opportunities
  - More education geared towards girls
  - Set examples using strong female figures in Indian society
  - Like women in Parliament and actresses
  - Can start a trend
  - Change the mindset of society
  - Most difficult to implement
  - Will happen as India becomes more developed

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

To India:

- Equality in all facets of government
- Women as the face of large corporations
- Target India’s youth
- Create programs designed to educate both men and women

To Agencies:

- Continue developing and funding programs
- Continue to invest in further initiatives
- Education and inform all members of society

**WHAT IS BEING DONE**

**Government**

- Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961
  - Outlaw practice of dowry
  - Only theoretical
- National Girl Child Day
  - January 24th
  - Create national awareness
- “Dhanalakshmi”
  - Aims to change mindset of society
  - Incentivizes the birth of a girl

**Organizations**

- The Red Cross
- The Rhema Project
- IFAD
- The 50 Million Missing Girls Campaign

**Individuals**

- Andal Damodaran
  - Dedicated life to this issue
  - Stopped infanticide in 350 villages
- Sunita Aralikar
  - Almost a victim of infanticide
- Nyantara Pais Caputi
  - Filming documentary on infanticide, “Petals in the Dust”

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Be passionate about women’s rights
- Participate in the global walk to end female infanticide
- on March 5
- Join websites or social media of organizations
  - Sign the 50 Million Missing Girls Campaign Petition
- Join clubs on campus relating to this topic

**REFERENCES**


“Murdering for a Better Life”

- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

“**This is a national shame and we must face this challenge squarely here and now. No nation, no society, no community can hold its head high and claim to be part of the civilized world if it condones the practice of discriminating against one half of humanity represented by WOMEN,”** (Clifford, 2012)