

Lives at Risk: Discrimination of Female Children in Modern India

Author :T.V.Sekher and Neelambar Hatti

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Abstract : This field-based study carried out in two states of South India has provided valuable information on issues related to female foeticide, infanticide and neglect of girl child in rural areas and among various communities. The study was carried out in collaboration with Lund University. As part of the project, an International Seminar was organized at ISEC, Bangalore, during Sept.2005 in which twelve research papers were presented. The Lund University has already published two papers based on this project (www.ekh-lu-se). This study has brought out the prevalence of widespread misuse of sex determination tests and sex-selective abortions. The medical technology gave opportunity for the parents to achieve the desired family size and desired gender composition of children. The rapid fertility decline, not accompanied by the changes in cultural values and gender inequality, resulted in a deliberate attempt to 'get rid of the girls'.