



Full Length Research Article

ATTITUDE REGARDING GENDER BIASNESS AMONG PRIMIGRAVIDA WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL OPD'S

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to assess the attitude regarding "gender biasness among primigravida women" attending antenatal OPD's at selected hospitals". Despite of gender equality all over the world, still there is positive attitude towards gender biasness among primigravida women. In India, thousands of studies have been done on son preference and female foeticide but findings regarding gender biasness are very scarce. So, the present study was conducted to assess the attitude regarding gender biasness among primigravida women with an objective to assess the attitude regarding gender biasness and to ascertain the association of attitude regarding gender biasness with selected socio demographic variables. A descriptive research design was used with convenience sampling technique consisted of 100 primigravida women and the data was collected by using self report method to assess the socio-demographic data and attitude towards gender biasness among primigravida women. Analysis was done using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings revealed that 95% of primigravida women had negative attitude towards gender biasness while remaining 5% women had positive attitude towards gender biasness. The mean age of subjects was found to be 25. Thus the study concluded that attitude towards gender biasness among primigravida women is negative. The study findings revealed that there is significant effect of education and family income per month on the attitude of primigravida women regarding gender biasness.

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INTRODUCTION

Gender biasness or discriminatory attitude towards men and women has been existing in generations and effects the lives of both genders. Son preference in India is a well documented phenomenon which distorted the sex ratio. One of the most alarming trends in India is that "family must have son" which can be a normal attribute for couples who have only girls, is accompanied by the neglect and death of millions of females through the lack of medical care, improper nutrition, infanticide and sex selective abortions. Gender biasness in the developing world is a devastating reality. A son means insurance who will inherit his father's property and get a job to help and support the family. When a girl is born, the reaction is very different as some women weep when they find out their baby is a girl, because to them, a daughter is just another expense.¹³ In some parts of India, it is believed that there is no use of educating the girls, they believed that they are meant for household chores and giving birth.¹⁴

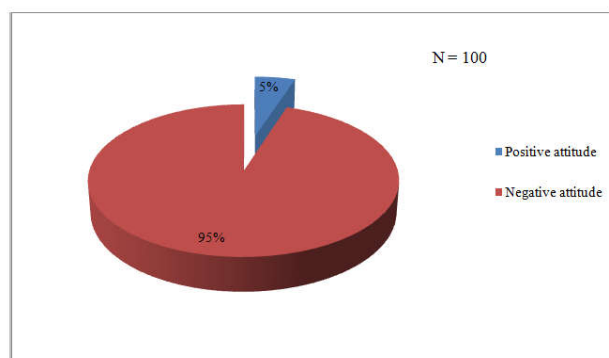
Latest census data of 2011 reveals lowest child sex ratio in 64 years which paints a grim picture of child sex ratio worsened to 914, the lowest since 1947.7 Sex ratio of India is 940 females per 1000 males and in Punjab it is found to be 893 females per 1000 males.⁸ According to the British medical journal Lancet, approximately 50 million girl fetuses have been victims of feticide in china where as in India the number is found to be 43 million.³ Declining female sex ratio is a silent emergency. But the crisis is real and its persistence has profound and frightening implications for the society and the future of the humankind. Empowering women as social, economic and political actors can change policy choices and make institutions more representative of range of voices.¹ So to make a substantial change in parental attitude towards daughters, it is necessary to change the social and economic root of gender biasness. However, before moving in this direction it is desired to know the extent of gender biasness among primigravida women.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive study was conducted to assess the attitude regarding gender biasness among primigravida women

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attending antenatal OPD's at DMC&H, Deep Hospital, GTB Hospital, Pal Hospital, Suman Hospital of city Ludhiana, Punjab. 100 primigravida women were selected by convenience sampling technique and their attitude was assessed by using likert scale.



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A written permission for conducting research study was obtained from the Principal of College of Nursing, DMC & Hospital, Ludhiana and from Medical superintendents of selected Hospitals of city Ludhiana as before starting the study and an informed consent was obtained from each subject.

Table 2. Association of attitude regarding gender biasness among primigravida women with socio-demographic variables

Variable	N	Mean scores \pm SD	F/t value
Educational status			
Illiterate	02	164.0 \pm 9.9	F= 4.569 p= 0.005*
Elementary	09	138.6 \pm 14.5	
Secondary	34	148.2 \pm 26.6	
Graduate and above	55	161.0 \pm 18.2	
Family income per month (in rupees)			
\leq 10,000			F= 6.175 p= 0.001*
10,001-20,000	13	145.5 \pm 25.4	
20,001-30,000	40	147.1 \pm 21.6	
>30,000	25	159.8 \pm 19.7	
	22	168.0 \pm 16.7	

Statistical methods

Analysis of data was done according to the objectives. Data obtained was analysed in terms of descriptive statistics i.e., mean, standard deviation and in terms of inferential statistics i.e. chi square, t – test and ANOVA at the level of significance $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS

Objective 1: To assess the attitude regarding gender biasness among primigravida women.

Distribution of attitude regarding gender biasness among primigravida women

It has been found that maximum of primigravida women (95%) having negative attitude while remaining only (5%) having positive attitude.

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Objective 2: To ascertain the association of attitude regarding gender biasness with selected socio-demographic variables.

DISCUSSION

As per the findings, primigravida women who were illiterate have significantly higher mean score (164.0 \pm 9.9) of attitude in comparison to others as supported by another study conducted by Suresh K. Sharma, Bhavna Garg, Nidhi Sagar (2013) at DMC & H Ludhiana in their study which revealed that 37% expressed son preference.

Conclusion

The present study findings concluded that maximum number of primigravida women were having negative attitude towards gender biasness. The study findings revealed that there is significant effect of education and family income per month on the attitude of primigravida women towards gender biasness.

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