A Descriptive Study To Assess Gender Preference And Its Associated Factors Among Primigravida Women Attending Antenatal Outpatient Department In Selected Hospital Of District Mohali, Punjab

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ABSTRACT

The social evils, female feticide and infanticide can be eradicated only when people recognize the importance of women in their life. Preference for male baby reflects underlying socioeconomic and cultural patterns and prevailing inequity between genders in many societies in India. In this light, the present was conducted to assess the factors associated with gender preference among primigravida women attending antenatal outpatient department in selected hospital of district Mohali, Punjab. It was inferred that the comparison scores for girl preference, Mean ±SD score of 29 primigravida was (90.02±19.30), the maximum score was 100 whereas the minimum score was 0. For boy preference, Mean ±SD score of 17 primigravida was (76.75±26.67), the maximum score was 100 whereas the minimum score was 10. For primigravida with no gender preference, Mean ±SD score was (100±0.00), the maximum score was 100 whereas the minimum score was 100. The majority of the primigravida demands male child whereas some had no issues with the gender preference. Hence, it was revealed that that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with primigravida women with age, religion, residential area, educational status, occupation, income type of family and type of marriage.

Keywords: primigravida women, gender preference.

INTRODUCTION

India is a patriarchal society where men are seen as the role models and are the ones to look after the parents in the old age. Sex ratio is an important social indicator measuring status and equity between male and female in the society.[1] Changes in sex-ratio reflect socioeconomic and cultural practice of a society. In India, deaths of young girls exceed those of young boys over three lakhs each year, and every sixth infant death is specifically due to gender discrimination. The United Nations Children's Fund states that systematic gender discrimination has resulted in up to 50 million girls & women "Going Missing" from India's

population.[2] A strong gender preference is seen in many societies even today. Most of the factors that compel people to favor a male offspring are social in origin with average family size decreasing rapidly and preference for male child remaining the same. The female population is showing the downward trend. This is due to the advent of technologies such as ultrasonography, imaging to determine fetal sex, and practice of sex-selective abortion.[3]

Aim of Study:

The aim of study is to assess the factors associated with gender preference among primigravida women attending antenatal outpatient department in selected hospital of district Mohali, Punjab.

Objectives:

1. To assess gender preference among primigravida women attending antenatal outpatient department.
2. To determine the association of factors of gender preference with selected socio-demographic variables among primigravida women attending antenatal outpatient department.

Materials and Methods:

A quantitative approach was used to conduct the study. A non-experimental descriptive design was adopted for the study. This study was conducted in Antenatal Outpatient Department of Civil Hospital of Phase-6, Mohali. The sample consisted of 50 primigravida women. The reliability was found to be r=0.82 which is highly significant.The investigator adopts convenient sampling technique to collect the data from the nulliparous mothers in the month of September 2021. The collected data was analyzed by using differential inferential statistics methods.

Problem Statement

A descriptive study to assess gender preference and its associated factors among primigravida women attending antenatal outpatient department in selected hospital of district Mohali, Punjab.

Results and Discussion:

Table 1: Comparison of scores of gender preference factors among primigravida women
N=50

PREFERENCE FACTOR SCORES COMPARISON

.	Mean	SD	N	Minimum	Maximum
Girl Preference	90.02	19.30	29	0	100
Son Preference	76.75	26.67	17	10	100
None Preference	100	0.00	4	100	100

Table1: denotes the comparison scores of gender preference factors among primigravida. For girl preference, Mean ±SD score of 29 primigravida was (90.02±19.30), the maximum score was 100 whereas the minimum score was 0. For boy preference, Mean ±SD score of 17 primigravida was (76.75±26.67), the maximum score was 100 whereas the minimum score was 10. For primigravida with no gender preference, Mean ±SD score was (100±0.00), the maximum score was 100 whereas the minimum score was 100.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of nulliparous mothers according to their socio- demographic variables
N=50

Demographic Data Variables		Frequency and %		Preference (N=50)			Association with Preference			
		(f)	(%)	Girl	Son	None	Chi Test	P Value	Df	Result
Age	18-23 years	20	40%	11	6	3	4.590	0.597	6	Not Significant
	24-29 years	16	32%	11	5	0				
	30-34 years	13	26%	6	6	1				
	Above 35 years	1	2%	1	0	0				
Educational Status	Illiterate	13	26%	7	6	0	5.867	0.438	6	Not Significant
	Primary	14	28%	6	6	2				
	Secondary	6	12%	5	1	0				

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	Graduation and above	17	34%	11	4	2			
Residential Area	Rural	25	50%	12	11	2	2.333	0.312	2	Not Significant
	Urban	25	50%	17	6	2				
Religion	Hindu	31	62%	18	12	1	6.104	0.412	6	Not Significant
	Muslim	5	10%	4	0	1				
	Sikh	13	26%	6	5	2				
	Christian	1	2%	1	0	0				
Occupation	Private Job	10	20%	8	2	0	7.323	0.292	6	Not Significant
	Government Job	5	10%	3	2	0				
	Self employed	2	4%	0	2	0				
	Housewife	33	66%	18	11	4				
Income	<5,000/-	1	2%	1	0	0	6.184	0.403	6	Not Significant
	Rs. 5,000-10,000/-	17	34%	7	9	1				
	Rs. 10,001-15,000/-	10	20%	5	4	1				
	Rs. 15,000 and above	22	44%	16	4	2				
Type of Family	Nuclear	23	46%	16	6	1	2.477	0.290	2	Not Significant
	Joint	27	54%	13	11	3				
Type of Marriage	Love	12	24%	6	5	1	0.449	0.799	2	Not Significant
	Arrange	38	76%	23	12	3				

According to age, the majority of the primigravida women 20 (40%) were in the age group of 18-23 years out of which 11 preferred girl child, 6 preferred boy while only 3 had no gender preference. About 16 (32%) of the primigravida women were about 24-29 years out of which 11 preferred girl child, 5 preferred boy while none of them had no gender preference. There were 13 (26%) primigravida women between 30-34 years out of which 6 preferred girl child, 6 preferred boy while only 1 had no gender preference. and only 1 (2%) was above 35 years of age who preferred girl child. The obtained chi square value ($\chi^2_{(6, 0.05)}$ = 4.590, 0.597) was higher at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis was accepted. So, it was concluded that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with age among primigravida women.

According to educational status, the majority of the primigravida women 17 (34%) were graduates out of which 11 preferred girl child, 4 preferred boy while only 2 had no gender preference. About 14 (28%) of the primigravida women were educated up to primary level out of which 6 preferred girl child, 6 preferred boy while 2 of them had no gender preference. There were 13 (26%) illiterate primigravida women out of which 7 preferred girl child, 6 preferred boy while none of them had no gender preference. Only 6 (12%) were educated up to secondary level out which 5 preferred girl child, 1 preferred boy and none of them had no gender preferences. The obtained chi square value ($\chi^2_{(6, 0.05)}$ = 5.867, 0.438) was higher at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis was accepted. So, it was concluded that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with educational status among primigravida women.

According to residential area, the 25 (50%) of the primigravida women belonged to rural area out of which 12 preferred girl child, 11 preferred boy while only 2 had no gender preference. About 25 (50%) of the primigravida women belonged to urban area out of which 17 preferred girl child, 6 preferred boy while 2 of them had no gender preference. The obtained chi square value ($\chi^2_{(2, 0.05)}$ = 2.333, 0.312) was higher at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis was accepted. So, it was concluded that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with residential area among primigravida women.

According to religion, the majority of the primigravida women 31 (62%) were Hindu out of which 18 preferred girl child, 12 preferred boy while only 1 had no gender preference. About 13 (26%) of the primigravida women were Sikh out of which 6 preferred girl child, 5 preferred boy while 2 of them had no gender preference. There were 5 (10%) Muslim primigravida women out of which 4 preferred girl child, 0 preferred boy while 1 had no gender preference. There was only 1 (2%) Christian who preferred girl child. The obtained chi square value ($\chi^2_{(6, 0.05)}$ = 6.104, 0.412) was higher at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted. So, it was concluded that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with religion among primigravida women.

According to occupation of mother, the majority of the primigravida women 33 (66%) were housewives out of which 18 preferred girl child, 11 preferred boy while only 4 had no gender preference. About 10 (20%) of the primigravida women were private employees out of which 8 preferred girl child, 2 preferred boy while none of them had no gender preference. There were 5 (10%) primigravida women who were government employees out of which 3 preferred girl child, 2 preferred boys while none of them had any gender preference. Only 2 (4%) were self employed and both preferred boys. The obtained chi square value ($\chi^2_{(6, 0.05)}$ = 7.323, 0.292) was at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted. So, it was concluded that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with occupation of mother among primigravida women.

According to income, the majority of the primigravida women 22 (44%) belonged to income group of Rs.15,000/- and above out of which 16 preferred girl child, 4 preferred boy while only 2 had no gender preference. There were 17 (34%) primigravida women who had income between Rs.5, 000 -10,000/- out of which 7 preferred girl child, 9 preferred boys while 1 had no gender preference. There were 10 (20%) primigravida women who had income between Rs.10, 000-15,000/- out of which 5 preferred girl child, 4 preferred boys while 1 had no gender preference. Only 1 (2%) had income <Rs.5, 000/- who preferred girl child only. The obtained chi square value ($\chi^2_{(6, 0.05)}$ = 6.184, 0.403) was higher at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis was accepted. So, it was concluded that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with income among primigravida women.

According to type of family, the majority of 27 (54%) of the primigravida women belonged to joint family out of which 13 preferred girl child, 11 preferred boy while only 3 had no gender preference. About 23 (46%) primigravida women belonged to nuclear family out of which 16 preferred girl child, 6 preferred boy while 1 of them had no gender preference. The obtained chi square value ($\chi^2_{(2, 0.05)}$ = 2.477, 0.290) was higher at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis was accepted. So, it was concluded that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with type of family among primigravida women.

According to type of marriage, the majority of 38 (76%) of the primigravida women had arrange marriage out of which 23 preferred girl child, 12 preferred boy while only 3 had no gender preference. About 12 (24%) of the primigravida women had love marriage out of which 6 preferred girl child, 5 preferred boy while 1 of them had no gender preference. The obtained chi square value ($\chi^2_{(2, 0.05)}$ = 0.449, 0.799) was at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the null hypothesis was accepted. So, it was concluded that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with type of marriage among primigravida women.

Recommendations:

Based on the results of study following recommendations are made:

1. The study can be replicated on large sample to validate and generalize its findings.
2. Similar studies can be conducted in different settings like community.
3. A quasi experimental to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on gender preference and its associated factors among primigravida women attending antenatal outpatient department in selected hospital of Punjab.
4. A quasi experimental to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on gender preference and its associated factors among primigravida women in community
5. A pre experimental study can be conducted to assess the effectiveness of structured teaching programme on gender preference and its associated factors among primigravida women in community or hospital.
6. Similar study can be done by using randomization principle.

Conclusion:

From the findings of present study following conclusions were drawn:

➢ majority of the primigravida demands male child whereas some had no issues with the gender preference.
➢ that there was no association between the factors of gender preference with primigravida women:
 • age,
 • religion,
 • educational status,
 • residential area,
 • occupation,
 • income,
 • type of family
 • type of marriage.

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