Beti Bachao; Beti Padhao

Introduction

India should be like a dream-land that houses every facility on earth. That must include education for each and every girl. Though this was needed from centuries, the mission has come under the spotlight since our Honorable PM launched it on 22\textsuperscript{nd} January, 2015, funded through the Ministry of Human Affairs.

Its major objectives are to:-

a) Prevent gender based sex selective elimination
b) Ensure survival & protection of the Girl Child
c) Ensure education of the Girl Child
d) Improve the Nutrition Status of Girl Child
e) Promote a protective environment for Girl Child

It may be inferred that the campaign will achieve its target; being amplified by the NaMo factor. The very
first question that we should ask ourselves is that do they (girls) need education or do they deserve education. Its answer will decide the momentum of this campaign. Anyways, we need to look into the credibility of the campaign and play our part in the noble cause.

**Curbing female foeticide and infanticide**

When we pre-assume, it is not our duty to promote girl education as we have dozens of NGOs for that, then we are at absolute fault. According to data compiled by Registrar of Firms, Societies & Chits, UP, the state has 5, 48, 194 NGOs working on various issues. But this large number is not indicative of any good because NGOs have become agents of bureaucracy and not all are related to development. Evidently, we must step in and spread awareness regarding female infanticide and girl education. It is the utmost duty of doctors to help in cutting down foeticide cases. Some of them practice such heinous activities. But they forget that besides money, they are earning sin too. That reminds me of a newspaper
article. One of the doctors in Haryana said to his pregnant patient, “Abortion will cost you fortunes. Take my advice. If you don’t want two girls, fine! Kill the elder one and give birth to the one inside you.” On the woman’s protest, he said softly, “Killing a girl, inside the womb or outside; it doesn’t matter because a murder is a murder.”

**Advantages of girl-education**

Education is the tool that can help break the pattern of gender discrimination. The longer a girl is able to stay in school, the greater her chances to pursue worthwhile employment and a life without the hazards of extreme poverty. Girls who have had some schooling are more likely to get married later, survive child birth, have fewer children and make sure their own children complete school. The UN estimates that for every year a woman spends in primary school, the risk of he child dying prematurely is reduced by 8%.
Girl’s education means a comprehensive change for a society. As daughters get the opportunity to go to school and obtain higher level jobs, they gain status in their communities. Women can’t defend themselves against physical and sexual abuse until they have the authority to speak against it without fear. Knowledge gives that authority.

A mission to be accomplished

Even bigger chances become possible as girls’ education becomes the cultural norm. The daughters of India have hung the flag of the nation always high. Kiran Bedi, Indira Gandhi, Kalpana Chawla, Saina Nehwal, Pooja Thakur and many others have made their families and nation proud. Writing all their names will exceed the word limit by many pages.

If we desire our country to be a better place to live in, where sons and daughters are treated equally, we need to be a part of the campaign. Practising a simple technique can help; each one, teach two. Everyone can be a teacher, who may teach against
the wrong-doings and impart true meaning of the
privilege of having a girl child.

बेटों से तो बेटी भली;
            क्यूँ जन्म से पूर्व उनकी बलि
जिस के घर में बेटी आई,
            समझो स्वयं लक्ष्मी आई

*Facts and figures from Hindustan Times*