

UPSC Civil Services Examination

Subject – UPSC GS-I

Topic – Female Foeticide

In India, there was a slight improvement in the sex ratio from 927 females per 1000 males in 1991 to 941 females per thousand males in 2011. However, there has been a dip in the child sex ratio from 945 females per thousand males in 1991 to 919 females per thousand males in 2011. Some of the reasons for female foeticide can be attributed to the following

1. Dowry system, violence against women
2. Low status of women
3. Preference for son due to financial security
4. Small family norm
5. Misuse of diagnostic techniques.

Aspirants would find this topic very helpful in the [IAS Exam](#) from the perspective of UPSC GS-I (Indian Society and Social Issues.)

What is the difference between Female Foeticide and Female Infanticide?

Female foeticide and female infanticide are 2 of the earliest forms of discrimination against female members of our society. Abortion of girl child in the mothers womb refers to female foeticide and killing girl child after her birth is referred to as female infanticide. These 2 numbers are under reported in India, a fact that is proved by a completely skewed sex ratio in India.

Read about more [Social Issues in India](#) in the linked article.

What are the measures taken by the Government to curb female foeticide?

Government of India has taken multiple measures to tackle the problem.

1. Government of India has enacted a legislation named, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal diagnostic techniques Act 1994 which was amended in 2003.
2. Steps to stop illegal sex determination.
3. Ministry of Information and Communications Technology to block sex selection advertisements on websites.
4. Inspection of ultrasound diagnostic facilities by National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC).

Indian States and Sex-Ratio

The following table mentions the top 5 best performers and worst 5 performing states w.r.t sex-ratio and child sex-ratio in India:

Best Performing States (Child Sex-Ratio)	Worst Performing States (Child Sex-Ratio)
Arunachal Pradesh (972)	Haryana (834)
Mizoram (970)	Punjab (846)
Meghalaya (970)	Jammu & Kashmir (862)
Chhattisgarh (969)	Rajasthan (888)
Kerala (964)	Gujarat (890)

Does China still have One Child Policy?

In 2015, China reversed to 2 child policy. The policy was introduced in 1979. The policy excluded ethnic minorities and rural parents were allowed to have second child if the first child was a girl child.

Aspirants preparing for [UPSC 2020](#) can refer to the linked articles below as they are similar to the topic, 'female foeticide:'

Social Justice	Gender Inequality in India
Gender Pay Parity	Child Protection in India